Solidary Mobile Housing

Edited by Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak, Geraldine Bruyneel, Tineke Van Heesvelde

The SMH project is an experimental venture into potentially innovative resilient housing models. Considering that for many vulnerable citizens, stable and quality housing is the first step towards recovery, SMH aims at co-creating a new model in a living environment with real users and trace the social and spatial impact of this practice.

Including the users in every step of the conceptualization and the construction of their own houses, SMH empowers the future inhabitants to incrementally co-create a solidary living community in interaction with the surrounding neighbourhood. A parallel aim of the SMH is to envision alternative modalities of appropriation of underused spaces.

Together with the future inhabitants, the non-profit organizations; Samenlevingsopbouw Brussels and Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAW) Brussels, the students and Professors from the Faculty of Architecture of KU Leuven reframed a Waiting Space in Esseghem, Brussels as a 'place of negotiation' and transformed it into a project through which questions about the city are raised, a place where experimentation and innovation take place. The project was funded by INNOVIRIS Co-create program.

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Edited by **Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak, Geraldine Bruyneel, Tineke Van Heesvelde**

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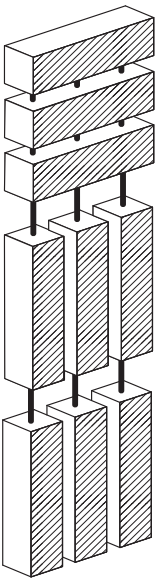

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Casa Blanco
Luc Lampaert
Future Inhabitants

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1.1 PREFACE

"Of course we feel very much involved in this project: it is about us and our future." The future residents of the first Solidary Mobile Housing project have their say in it. They proudly tell us how they were involved in the project from the beginning. In September 2017, the future residents were first introduced to the community workers, counselors, researchers and students in architecture who would be involved in the project. And over time the number of partners in the project would increase.

Together they looked for sites, reflected on living within a limited perimeter, learned about how to read a plan, to assess building plans and proposals, learned basic skills of carpentry, reflected about their role in their new neighbourhood...

“In the first place, this project ensures that we will have an affordable home with enough privacy, without being alone in the city”, that is one of the concerns shared by all the residents. Because of the long preliminary process, they have now become a solid group that learns to make agreements, to talk about sources of irritation and to work together. “The development of the project took a long time and sometimes we had the feeling that we had to give our opinion too often, but that is also part of a pilot project. We hope that many lessons will be learned from this first experience, so that the next project can be realized better and faster.”

Conversation with Amine, Benoit, Dennis, Didier, Jeremy, Marc, Omar, Robert

1.2 EDITOR'S NOTE

SEARCHING FOR A "NEW DEAL" FOR HOUSING IN BRUSSELS

Burak Pak

"everyone has the right to enjoy a life in conformity with human dignity"…"and the right to decent accommodation is central to this right" [1]

Across the globe and particularly in Brussels, decades of neoliberal policies resulted in the commodification and marketization of the housing sector. While a parade of governments failed to provide decent accommodation to the citizens, the constitutionally guaranteed "right to housing" has gradually evaporated into a mirage which is strived for but never reached. On top of this, the financial crisis of 2008 and the refugee influx in the last decade gave rise to an increasing number of vulnerable citizens in need of affordable housing.

The Solidary Mobile Housing (SMH) team co-created this book during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) epidemic, the economic crisis and the "Black Lives Matter" protests, together revealing structural forms of discrimination and inequality at a global scale. According to a recent brief by the United Nations, we are at this moment experiencing the amplification of the inequalities within and across countries that are pushing individuals and families into poverty. Our world desperately needs "measures that put people at the centre of response" to enable recovery, that can lead to better, more equitable and resilient outcomes for all.

This development has revealed the vitality of social responsibility of the governments in helping the citizens in need. In the last decade, significant criticism on neoliberal policies has emerged in Brussels, Belgium and across the world, and revealed how these policies incrementally eroded social welfare, jeopardizing the sustainability and resilience of the social support systems. Especially since the COVID-19 epidemic, it is widely argued in the intellectual spheres that the Welfare State is in a severe crisis. While the traditional ideals of solidarity are under threat, assumptions of traditional welfare are being challenged by the current policies. Growing forms of economic inequality continue to undermine the traditional safety nets and subvert solidarity in our society. All of these raise the emergent needs for novel structural forms of social and spatial solidarity.

Recently, numerous scholars, intellectuals, activists and politicians have made calls for a “New Social Deal” or a “Green New Deal” as a means to inclusively address the needs of all citizens while pursuing long- term sustainability goals. These calls demand an equitable approach to creation, distribution and sustenance of shared social, spatial and economic resources and propose an alternative relationship with the natural environment. Responsible and ethical urban policies are central to the emergent ideas of a “New Deal”. The supporters of this model propose that the governments and the civil society should step into a new role to address social and spatial inequalities and promote sustainable modes of living while making use of the existing resources more efficiently and effectively.

While 44.332 families are on the waiting list for social housing in the Brussels Capital Region, a variety of land and spaces owned by the government remain dormant and unused, referred to by us as ‘Waiting Spaces’. These spaces are potential areas for accommodating the Brusellites in innovative ways. The drastic increase in the number of house- and homeless people by 33% since 2010 make it even more necessary to search a “New Deal”. This increase is a clear call for the development and testing of smarter policies and urban strategies enabling novel architectural solutions for the creation of affordable housing together with an equitable use of the Waiting Spaces.

In this context, the SMH project is an experimental venture into potentially innovative and resilient housing models. Considering that for many vulnerable citizens, stable and quality housing is the first step towards recovery, SMH aims at co-creating a new model in a living environment with real users and trace the social and spatial impact of this practice. Including the users in every step of the conceptualization and the construction of their own houses, SMH empowers the future inhabitants to incrementally co-create a solidary living community in interaction with the surrounding neighbourhood.

A parallel aim of the SMH is to envision alternative modalities of appropriation of underused spaces. Together with the future inhabitants, the non-profit organisations Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel and Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAW) Brussel, the students and professors from the Faculty of Architecture of KU Leuven reframed a Waiting Space in Esseghem as a ‘place of negotiation’ and transformed it into a project through which questions on the city are raised, a place where experimentation and innovation take place. In this sense SMH was and (continues to be) purely a critical spatial practice, which encouraged all of its participants including social workers, students and studio coordinators to get out of the comfortable boundaries of traditional expertise in their fields and venture into the unknown, or “the intentional and skilful mastering of incompetence in the ocean of practices” as Markus Miessen puts it.

SMH went beyond practicing architecture as a solely physical product and explored the co-creation of alternate socio-spatial realities. SMH criticized existing protocols, and invented new protocols in this venture. It introduced novel socio-spatial perspectives for understanding and intervening in Waiting Spaces as a means to enable a critical version of the neoliberal architectural practices.

A quintessential affordance of the SMH project was the prefiguration and signposting of an innovative housing model as an example to demonstrate that "An Alternative Is Possible (AAIP)". In this way, the SMH team deliberately aimed to counter the traditional discourse of "There Is No Alternative (TINA)" by engaging in a prefigurative practice as a socially responsible form of "futuring"[2] the housing in Brussels. SMH is an inclusive, dynamic, mobile and adaptable form of co-creating and dwelling in solidarity.

The end of the SMH Co-create project is by no means a "finale", but a milestone of a new phase in our joint adventure. The next step is to open up the architectural solutions, socio-spatial knowledge, co-creation methods and tools produced in this project to a wider audience including citizens, governmental and non-governmental authorities, and experiment with different possibilities of upscaling the SMH project.

Join us in this journey towards a "New Deal" for Housing!
opencall@solidairmobielwonen.be
opencall@solidarymobilehousing.be

1 Belgium constitution Article 23§3 and Housing Rights Watch Europe

2 Futuring aims to formulate expectations regarding the future and identify the emerging opportunities and threats it presents, so appropriate measures (qualitative and quantitative) may be provided through which to realize desired outcomes. Futuring is not intended to prepare an unchanged set of estimates, which will refer to an unchanging future. Rather it represents the making of decisions (whether regarding investments or otherwise) that will ensure the successful course of the enterprise and are characterized by flexibility

1.3 INTRODUCING SMH

Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak, Yves Schoonjans, Geraldine Bruyneel, Bob Van Hoecke

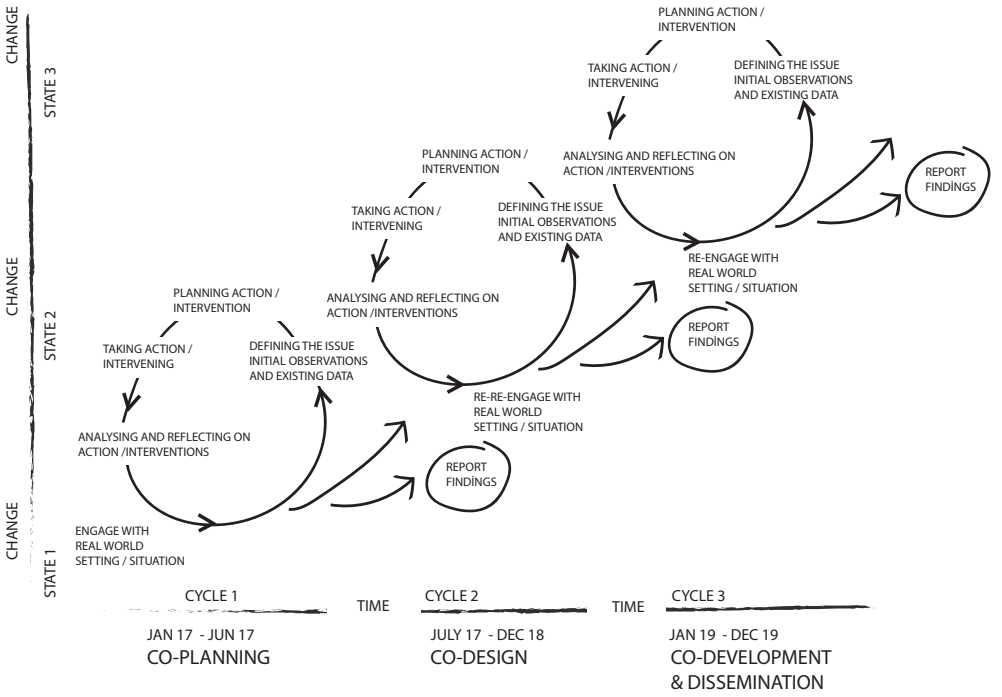
This book introduces the socio-spatial and scientific results of the first phase of the Solidary Mobile Housing (SMH) project.

SMH is a joint initiative by eight people in precarious housing conditions, people from the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR), the non-profit organization Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel, the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels and Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk Brussel (CAW). The project is funded by the BCR's Research Institution INNOVIRIS, under the Co-create program and by the BCR's Minister responsible for Housing, Quality of Life, Environment and Energy, Céline Frémault. BC Architects bvba and the non-profit organizations Atelier Groot Eiland, Casablanco and Sociale Innovatie Fabriek also contributed to the design of the project, its technical implementation and skill-building and support activities with an aim at upscaling its potential.

From 2017 to 2019 the SMH partners worked on developing, testing and finetuning a resilient model for the co-creation of solidary living in mobile homes on vacant lots in the BCR. Against the backdrop of the current affordable housing crisis (sections 2.1 and 2.2) and the growing interest in temporary use of Waiting Spaces (see section 2.3), the project explored the ways in which the urban landscape can be made more resilient and democracy in the housing sector can be improved. In order to address this overarching question, the SMH partners experimented with research-driven design and co-creation of mobile housing in waiting spaces while ensuring the safeguarding of the solidarity character of temporary use for and with citizens in need.

The SMH project had four clear objectives. Firstly, we aimed at developing co-design and co-creation processes focused on empowering the various stakeholders, by actively and interactively involving them from the start. This included providing the necessary guidance and skill building to enable the active participation of all the actors, foremost the future inhabitants. Secondly, we aimed at developing an innovative, mobile and modular type of housing for the most vulnerable users, where collectivity and solidarity between the inhabitants are central, as well as adaptability and flexibility. Thirdly, we aimed at creating and strengthening small-scale solidarity networks in interaction with the immediate environment (the street, the neighbourhood, the city). Finally, we aimed at involving vulnerable people in the discussion on the temporary use of urban Waiting Spaces.

These objectives were explored through a far-reaching co-design driven participatory action research process, in which the future inhabitants and NPO's were included from the beginning. In sections 4.3 and 4.4 we have discussed the impact and future perspectives of this process, based on the preliminary results of this project.



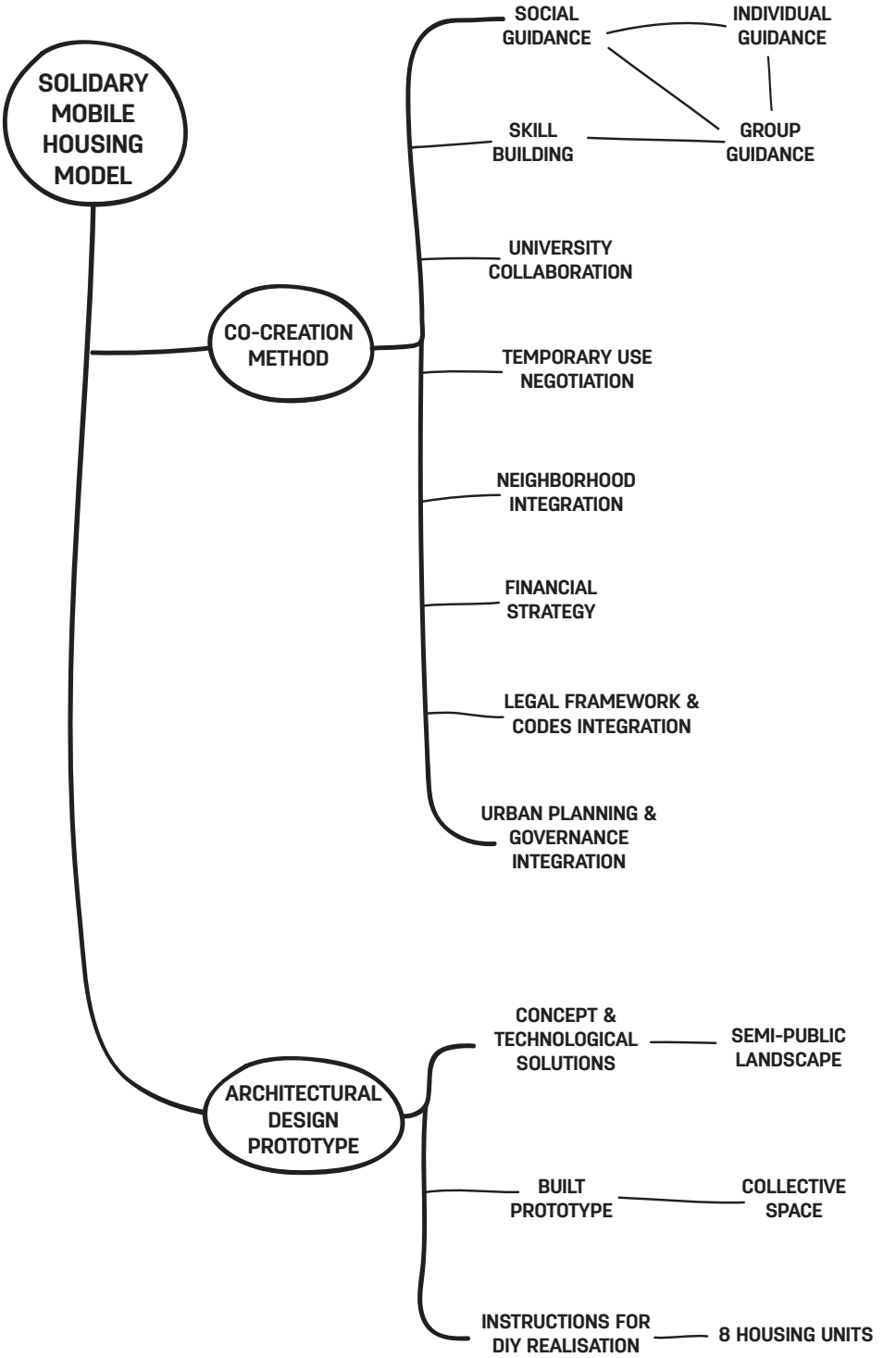
The hypothesis behind this approach was that, by collectively taking part in every step of the conceptualization, construction and exploitation of their own houses, home- and/or houseless people would be empowered not only to participate in the co-creation of their individual housing units, but also to gradually create a solidary living community, through interactions with the surrounding neighbourhood. Thus gradually regaining a grip not only on their own housing process but also on their whole life.

At this point, the SMH project is still a pilot project that needs to be developed and tested further. However, as a blueprint of an alternative housing development model, it also has an important indicative function.

The Solidary Mobile Housing Model

The co-created Solidary Mobile Housing Model (SMH/M) offers an affordable, mobile and modular housing and dwelling system to be implemented on temporary available sites, along with methods for guidance and co-creation. In this model, the potential clients are social housing services and developers, social organizations and citizen collectives (Figure above).

The SMH/M brings together the various stakeholders in a participatory Living Lab. Throughout the process, different methods and tools are employed, tailored to the specific needs and requirements of the participants in each stage of the project. SMH/M will be available as an open-source resource in the future (so that other users can also develop their own SMH communities).


SOLIDARY MOBILE HOUSING MODEL
CO-CREATION METHOD
SOCIAL GUIDANCE
INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE
SKILL BUILDING
GROUP GUIDANCE
UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION
TEMPORARY USE NEGOTIATION
NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRATION
FINANCIAL STRATEGY
LEGAL FRAMEWORK & CODES INTEGRATION
URBAN PLANNING & GOVERNANCE INTEGRATION
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROTOTYPE
CONCEPT & TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS
SEMI-PUBLIC LANDSCAPE
BUILT PROTOTYPE
COLLECTIVE SPACE
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIY REALISATION
8 HOUSING UNITS

The SMH Co-creation Method (tested for prototyping) is based on including home- and/or houseless people, NPO's, students, researchers and teachers of the Faculty of Architecture and professionals in the entire development and design process, with the aim of co-creating a learning environment and fostering mutual learning.

The social guidance approach and methods proposed and tested in the SMH/M involves the inclusion of the insights of group guidance and empowerment process in community building and individual guidance as used in supported housing. The aim of social guidance is to enable the future inhabitants to reconnect with themselves, the group and society. The empowerment of the participants is fostered through co-creation, skill building and individual and group guidance. Sections 3.1 and 3.4 of this book are giving an insight in this aspect of the project.

An essential part of SMH is the creation/reinforcement of small-scale solidarity networks. Although the intention is to occupy urban Waiting Spaces, this does not mean the SMH/M wants to hide away home- and/or houseless people in a forgotten corner of the city. On the one hand, the ambition is for SMH Communities to be able to settle on sites that fit our collectively determined location criteria (e.g. no pollution or flood risk, enough surface available, suitable land use category, good accessibility…) and which offer the inhabitants plenty of opportunities (e.g. connectivity, closeness to facilities, access to green areas, right balance of privacy and openness towards the public space …).

In the context of the SMH/M, we therefore started working on methods and techniques for site discovery and selection (De Smet, Pak and Schoonjans, forthcoming) and then on strategies for temporary use negotiation, like the development of a temporary use agreement template. A reflection on the outcomes of this process can be found in section 3.2 of this book. On the other hand, the project also aims at bringing an added value to the site and its environment and at fostering interaction between the project partners, the current neighbourhood residents and the future inhabitants. Depending on the level of integration with the neighbourhood, the SMH/M also provides methods for community building as well as systems to reflect with the inhabitants about the talents they have and want to put to use within the neighbourhood. Section 4.2 gives more insight in this aspect of the project.

Besides this, the SMH/M also included methods for university integration (Pak, 2017) in the form of an inclusive design studio and an elective course on altering practices for urban inclusion. For educational institutions, SMH offers opportunities for practice-based research and outreach. Including future inhabitants and NPO's in architectural education at the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven helps to train students to become competent professionals. The contact with this specific target group and the NPO's guiding and supporting them makes future architects aware of their social role. It enables the inhabitants and NPO's to contribute to the training of these young people. This aspect of the project is highlighted in sections 3.3 and 4.1 of the book.

The Legal Framework & Codes Integration takes into account Urban and Housing rules and regulations as well as Social and Labour rules and regulations. The legal strategy included in the SMH/M aims at relieving the inhabitants from as many legal and administrative constraints as possible. Therefore, the project was designed so that it can fit completely in the current legal framework and codes. Section 2.4 gives a background for this.

Along with the construction of the prototype (see section 3.5), a financial balance sheet is being produced. This is necessary to create a financial plan and reveal alternative funding possibilities. After the finalization and testing of the prototype, this aspect will be studied further.

2019

In the context of urban planning and governance integration, several links between SMH and the ambitions formulated in the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (PRDD/GPDO) can be established. First, according to the PRDD, the Region should support temporary participatory projects involving the Brussels citizens in an active reflection on their urban environment and to collectively formulate answers to the challenges of tomorrow. As an active contribution to the development of urban (waiting) spaces and neighbourhood integration are integral parts of the SMH/M, we believe our model provides a good platform for realizing this ambition. Secondly, according to the PRDD, the 'right to the city' must be the basis for any territorial approach; territorial policies should therefore be based on solidarity. This is also the aim of the SMH/M. The model first of all aims at creating housing for home- and/or houseless people, a group that is usually excluded everywhere else. However, by opening up the collective space and semi-public landscape to the neighbourhood, it also aims at including anyone else who is prepared and willing to get involved. Thirdly, the aim of the PRDD is the realization of a 'polycentric city on different scales'. In this context, the SMH/M provides a method for activating the 'Intermittent City' (consisting of the totality of the BCR's underused urban spaces) and integrating these into this polycentric network.

As the project is far from finished, it is too early to formulate final conclusions, especially as far as the empowerment of the participants is concerned. However, we are hoping that through this book, it will become clear to you that some indications can already be found for the fact that this process has indeed begun.
At this point, the SMH project is far from ending. Currently, we are working on the next phase in which we aim at getting a Proof of Concept for the SMH/M (through extensive site-testing and a feasibility and viability study, including a market exploration) and in which the strategies, conditions and key success factors for scaling-up will be investigated (Pak, Schoonjans & De Smet, 2020-2021).

In the coming period, the SMH project will keep on delivering insights, also after its appropriation by the inhabitants and the neighbourhood. As the aim of SMH is to be open to anyone who wants to get involved, we would like to invite you to join us and help us to further realize this project, so that the future projected in section 4.5 would become a reality.

De Smet, A., Pak, B. & Schoonjans, Y. (2021-forthcoming). Site Selection for Affordable Mobile Housing: the case of Waiting Spaces in Brussels

Pak, B. (2017). Strategies and Tools for Enabling Bottom-up Practices in Architecture and Urban Design Studios. In: Knowledge Cultures, SPECIAL ISSUE (Learning, technologies, and time in the age of global neoliberal capitalism), 84-102.

Pak, B, Schoonjans, Y. & De Smet A, (2020-2021). Proof of Concept for the Solidary Mobile Housing Co-Creation Model and the Realized Housing Prototype (PoC SMH), Research project supported by INNOVIRIS Brussels (3E200555)

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/SolidairMobielWonen

Tineke: *"This project arose from Atelier Caricole, an action group of people who experienced the problems of housing and homelessness at first hand, accompanied by Samenlevingsopbouw and Ara. As finding solutions on the normal housing market became impossible and our - yet creative - ways of drawing attention to this in policy turned out to (almost) nothing, we were forced to reshape ourselves. The first step was the temporary occupation of vacancy, and then came the what-if-question: what if we could create our own homes, affordable and qualitative, and move them from one wasteland to another? And what if the end-users themselves could contribute to this? It asked for an open organisation, ambitious colleagues and a partnership with a lot of competences that we didn't have in-house to gradually find an answer to these questions."*

Aurelie: *"When I started my research on temporary use of Waiting Spaces, back in 2009, I never imagined that one day I would be able to contribute to developing a real-life, experimental and innovative temporary use project, that aims at addressing such an urgent need in Brussels. It is thanks to my advisor Burak Pak, who really believes in me, that I got the opportunity to help translate our theoretical knowledge into practice and to collaborate with so many dedicated people, who are fighting on the field every day to make Brussels a better place for everyone. I learned (and will continue to learn) so much from them, for which I am so grateful. For what good is knowledge if you don't apply it and learn even more from that?"*

Burak: *"The SMH project was an important practice-based learning experience for me and the members of the Altering Practices for Urban Inclusion Research Group. Collaborating with the future inhabitants, Samenlevingsopbouw, CAW and the other supporting partners helped us to develop novel ways of questioning and transforming the socio-political conditions of the spaces and enabled us to test the boundaries and procedures of architectural design. Together, we have pushed the limits of world-as-it-is and extended towards the-world-as-it-can-be, from somehow to other how, imagining how our cities and spaces can be made and become otherwise. Integrating social and political domains, the SMH project resulted in the reframing of spatial practice as diverse forms of civic-situated knowledge creation in-and-through design. Recognizing and including the lived experiences of future inhabitants provided important insights into institutional failure and social exclusion in urban projects. By setting up academic research in the context of collaborative learning processes, combining outreach-based community and interdisciplinary network practice, we learned and co-created valuable knowledge and collectively developed innovative socio-spatial design approaches to address these challenges."*

Yves: *"There is an increasing need to form teams - to share authorship- without imposing traditional hierarchical structures that no longer allow a qualitative project to be coherently conceived or developed. It would be a shame not to take advantage of a changing society; hence the changing built environment, or to rethink the discipline and practice of architecture, design, and urbanism."*

1.4 MEET THE INHABITANTS

“Family is always first.”

Hi my name is Amine Bellarabi. I am 36 years old. I enjoy doing sports and listening to Rai, Algerian folk music. When it’s a rainy day I enjoy watching Scarface and cook my favorite fresh fish. I normally enjoy working in commerce but I can be quite talented in the kitchen and in managing the bar. I’m pretty friendly with anyone but detest any racist talks and stay away from it.

My greatest wish now is to become successful and stable while becoming part of the community of Jette.

“Fait l’amour mais pas la guerre”

Hi my name is Yannick Moreau, I am 60 years old from St. Malo Bretagne. My favorite things to do are riding horses, listening to Queen and watching racing car crashes online while eating *galettes Bretonnes*.

This summer I would like to share the movie *Belle et Sébastien* with everyone at the open cinema nights held at our new site. Also if you need some tips on gardening, I can help, and also try some jokes.

“Don’t Worry be Happy”

My name is Omar Hamrouni, I am 38 years old from Sousse, Tunisie.
I enjoy playing football, and live streaming on Korastar. I also like to watch action movies like Gladiator and listen to r&b, rap, and reggae. My future goal is to help people and become an ambulancier.

I believe that respect is the best thing to have as a future neighbour of Jette, but would like to share some cookout moments and invite you to have some steak together.

“Don’t waste your time or time will waste you!”

My name is Jeremy Claesswinnen, I am 40 years old from Etterbeek. I would say I am pretty handy when it comes to making things and repairing them.
I enjoy drawing and doing graffiti, as my dream has always been to draw for Walt Disney. In the future I would like to become an artist and make my hobby my work.

At the future events at the site, music such as Hip hop and Jazz would be nice, also maybe cookout some steak and fries to share.
I like things to be in order and fair for everyone, so
I would like to ask the neighbours of Jette for mutual respect and perhaps a smile.

“Mieux vaut-être le roi d’en bas que l’esclave d’en haut”.

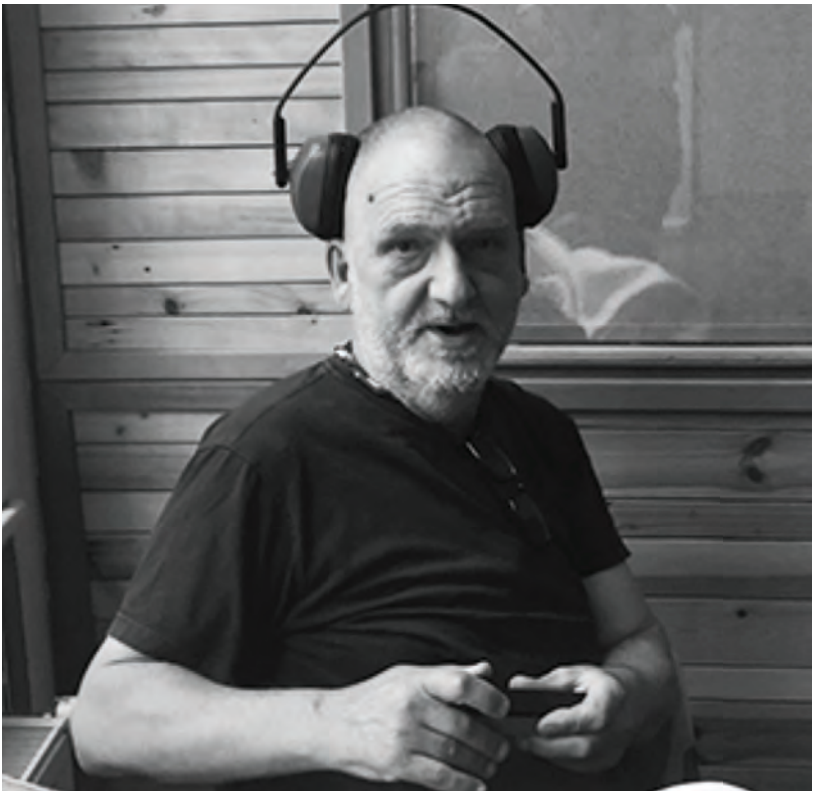
My name is Benoit Van Dooren, I am 49 years old from Brussels. I enjoy video games, specially Fifa, going on *commentcamarche.net* and listening to 90’s electro. My dream has always been to become a well known DJ or race car driver, but for now I am a very good handyman, who dislikes pseudo-philosophers. At the movie nights at the site, I would like to see the movie Fight club and perhaps cook some *chicons au gratin*.

I would like to ask from everyone to always give respect and positivity a try, and to never give a bad image to our group. We all must try, because we can.

“Keep calm and carry on.”

My name is Didier Nzeza Makunsi, I am 51 years old. I am the kind of person who can stay calm in any situation, and so my dream has always been to be in the military, I think I would do well there. I enjoy reading, playing sports and sometimes watching them online on *L’equipe.* For music I like a bit of everything, but really enjoy watching historical films and eating African food.

I would like for our group and the neighbourhood to have a good understanding and open dialogue.



“Toujours prêt quand je le peux! devise scout.”

My name is Marc Staquet, I am 54 years old from Uccle. I enjoy doing crosswords, and listening to music from the 60’s - 90’s. My favorite movie is Top Gun and I like fries with everything. I’m not greatly talented in something but I’m good at many things. I always wanted to be a millionaire, but I will settle with being able to live off my own annuities.

What I would like from the neighbours is mutual respect.

**“Na regen komt zonneschijn..
Hakuna matata.”**

My name is Dennis Plovie, I am 36 years old from Ostende. I believe to be a very versatile person, who has the dream of one day visiting the amazon and becoming a keeper at an animal reserve. In my free time I enjoy walking around and listening to r&b, rap and rock. For the future SOLID group events I would like to watch my favorite movie Braveheart and eat my favorite dish, steak and fries.

I would like to ask the neighbourhood.. for a lot of money.

“I’m cool and calm as the wind and the water.”

I’m Robert Preston, 58 years ago, I was born in Akra, Ghana.
I used to be sportive but now I can’t do a lot of sports because of my health. My favorite sport back then was parachuting. Now, I like to cook and listen to music. My favorite website is YouTube. Also, I like to chat with my friends from all over the world. Before, I used to work for a radio station and therefore I like many kinds of music, but my favourite is Latino music because of the rhythms. I don’t like movies very much, but I do enjoy to watch documentaries. And my favorite food? My favorite foor is rice! What I don’t like is disrespect. My dream is that everyone can grow up and live in peace and harmony. There are two things I’d still like to do in my life: open an affordable but nice restaurant where everyone is welcome, and the second on is to teach young people how to organize events, because I’ve been doing that for years.

My message to the future neighbours: you’re welcome to share a coffee or a drink with us anytime! Don’t hesitate to speak to us.

1.5 THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROTOTYPE

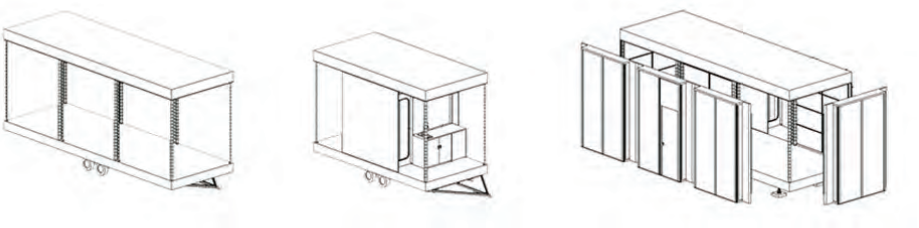
Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak & Ken De Cooman

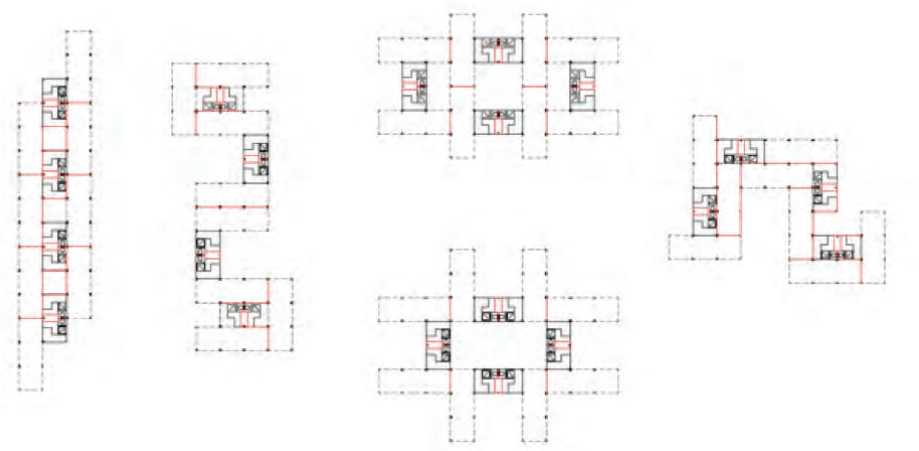
Concepts & Technological Solutions

From the perspective of socio-spatial design, the aim of SMH was to provide quality and affordability in temporary housing on urban wastelands. To achieve its objective, the project focused on living on a limited surface, on circular construction and on partial self-construction.

By working with modular building elements that can be prefabricated in a workshop, we aimed at shortening the construction site time and opening the production processes to non-professionals. The transport and installation costs are minimalized by thinking in components that are transportable and (dis)mountable in a low-tech manner.

The technical installations were designed as low tech as possible, so as to be able to function off-grid as well as connected to the grid. In addition to energy efficiency, this also creates awareness and offers learning and experimentation opportunities.





Another essential aim of the project was to offer a housing solution that can be tailored to the wishes of each individual inhabitant. However, as Turner & Fichter (1972) pointed out, users' housing needs vary over time and in the case of mobile housing, the context and conditions of the environment can vary significantly from site to site. Therefore, flexibility and openness needed to be at the core of the architectural and technical design of SMH. Following the 'infrastructuring'[1]-principle, we co-created a system of modular building elements, consisting of several modules which can be combined to generate endless open-plan layouts.

Finally, SMH also focused on fostering solidarity, both amongst the inhabitants and between the inhabitants and the neighbourhood. Therefore, we designed a housing typology in which indoor and outdoor collective spaces, allowing for encounters and exchanges, are combined with individual spaces, allowing privacy. Through a qualitative spatial design, including gradual transitions between the collective and the private, we want to show that temporary structures can generate meaningful spaces that can help strengthen social inclusion and citizenship.

Built Prototype

From 2017 until 2019, a preliminary (built) prototype - consisting of eight individual housing units and one (or more) collective space(s) surrounded by a semi-public landscape - was conceptualised. This Prototype SMH community, is currently being co-constructed and will soon be installed on a Waiting Space in Jette, after which eight inhabitants will start moving in.

The Housing Units

SMH aims at providing individual housing units that are compliant with the current housing rules and regulations. Therefore, the units have a surface of 22m2, and each one is equipped with a toilet, bathroom and cooking area (as stipulated in the BCR's Regi onal Town Planning Regulations).

Each individual housing unit consists of a structural module built on a trailer of 2.44 meters by 7.32 meters combined with a technical module built on a trailer of 2.44 meters by 4.88 meters, consisting of two small bathrooms and kitchens and one technical room. These are completed with interchangeable facade panels. A choice can be made between four types of panels: a closed one, a partially glazed one, a fully glazed one and one with a door and/or flexible, reusable interior walls.

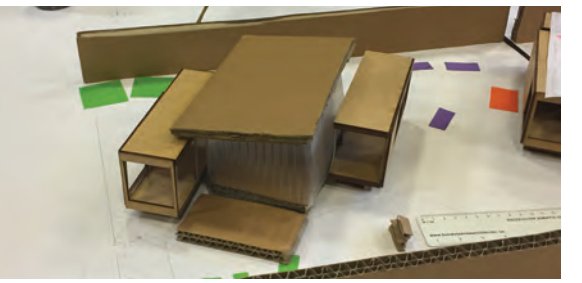
The individual housing units can be combined in multiple ways to vary the degree of density, intimacy and collectiveness between the units and/or the visibility and accessibility from the street. In this way, the co-designed building system is enabling the users to create and recreate their homes, both during the design and after the completion of the project.

Collective Space(s)

The aim of the collective space(s) is on the one hand to facilitate communal life and mutual solidarity within the group. On the other hand, the collective space will also be used to organize activities encouraging encounters and interactions between the inhabitants and non-residents (like neighbours, students, family members). Therefore, the collective space(s) is at the same time tailored to the needs and wishes of the inhabitants but also partly undefined, enabling variable and flexible use and fostering neighbourhood integration.

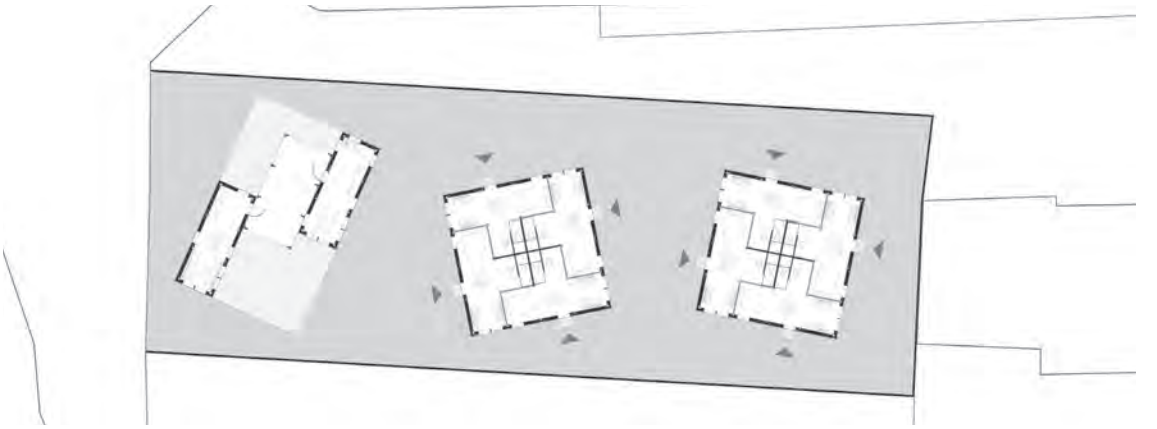
Due to the openness of the building system, it is possible to build the collective space using the same modules used for the individual housing units. In this manner, four modules would result in a collective space of approximately 71,5 m2 (eventually combined with an inner courtyard of 6m2, as in the first plan for Jette shown above).

Considering the budget limitations for this phase, we choose to design the collective space as a combination of an open, multifunctional space and only two structural modules, one containing a collective kitchen and one containing a wood workshop. Conc eiving the multifunctional space as a light self-built, modular and dismountable wood and polycarbonate construction, allowed us to create a bigger surface at a lower cost.



Semi-public Landscape

The outdoor space surrounding the individual units and the collective space(s) is being co-designed as a semi-public landscape together with the inhabitants. The positioning of the built volumes and the design of the terraces, fences and entrances enables the inhabitants to create different levels of accessibility depending on the time of the day and the activities taking place on the site. Thus, the design allows for a gradual transition between public, semi-public, collective and private space.



As a result, the project is not only offering vulnerable people the opportunity to create their dwellings on temporarily available sites. But, at the same time, it is also allowing them to interact with their urban environment by providing a qualitative and meaningful shared space to the neighbourhood.

1 Infrastructuring - a term coined by Karasti & Syrjänen (2004) - is a process which involves infrastructure design for participation along with 'mediation, interpretation, articulation, as well as actual design-in-use such as adaptation, appropriation, tailoring, redesign and maintenance.' (Bannon & Ehn, 2013: 57).

Bob: *"Personally, I am also very interested in the architectural and aesthetic aspects, but also in aspects such as sustainability, comfort, off-grid solutions. They all come together in this project. I've already learned a lot by being closely involved in it. It has also changed my view on housing."*

THE BRUSSELS CONTEXT

2.1 HOUSELESSNESS IN BRUSSELS & EUROPE

THE IMPACT OF GENDER IN HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING DEPRIVATION IN THE BRUSSELS REGION

Nicole Mondelaers

Studies and data collection on the gender of homeless people show that, in most countries, men account for 75 to 85% of homeless people, whereas women represent only about 15-25%. However, it is important to note that variations in gender ratio can also be the result of differences in homelessness definitions. [1]

The recent European study on homelessness and housing exclusion in Europe (2019)[2] confirms the link between predominant definitions of homelessness and/or data collection frameworks and consequently the invisibility of women's (and family) homelessness. Baptista & Marlier collected evidence among 35 countries shows that women usually represent a minority among the homeless population surveyed, rarely accounting for more than 20-30% of the total. However, when the definitions and the calculation methods used reflect a broader reality than rough sleeping and the use of emergency accommodation services, women appear in larger proportions. That is the case in Scotland, England and Ireland. Another example is the Brussels-Capital Region (19 municipalities).

The Brussels case

The Brussels situation is interesting because it shows that women and children are a priority in both formal and informal (emergency) housing for the homeless. In addition, Brussels is struggling with an enormous increase in homeless Roma families and (trans)migrants, indicating a shift in the cliché of the homeless man.

La Strada[3], the support centre for the homeless sector in Brussels, has been carrying out a bi-annual survey of homeless and inadequately housed people in the Brussels Region since 2008. The organisation records not only the number of people who spend the night on the street, in parks and metro or train stations but also tries to record the number of people staying in approved (emergency) accommodation services for the homeless (night shelters, homeless hostels, temporary accommodation, transitional supported accommodation). In addition to these groups, the survey attempts to list those who find shelter through other means due to a lack of places in accommodation services or because accessing these places is difficult for various reasons.
The framework for the Brussels data collection is based on the ETHOS typology[4] which classifies homeless people according to their living or

'home' situation. The typology distinguishes areas which constitute a 'home'. Having a home can be understood as: having an adequate dwelling (or space) over which a person and his/her family can exercise exclusive possession (physical area); being able to maintain privacy and enjoy relations (social area) and having a legal right of occupancy (legal field). This leads to four main categories: rooflessness (public space and emergency shelters), houselessness (accommodation with support for the homeless), insecure housing and inadequate housing.

Organising counting procedures over a ten year period, (2008, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018[5]), with the same methodology and the same stakeholders, has enabled La Strada to analyze developments and trends, to make comparisons and to draw conclusions.

The exhaustive data on the number of accommodated homeless people (houseless) is the result of a close involvement of the homeless sector and the voluntary cooperation of all the residential services (emergency and longer-term accommodation). It is important to note that the numbers listed under the other ETHOS-categories (roofless, insecure and inadequate housing) are an underestimation of the number of people in these precarious living situations. However, they indeed give an indication of the magnitude of the problem and its evolution.

Priority means exclusion

The results of the successive counts reveal three clear trends: an increasingly rapid rise in (counted) homeless people; the political choice for developing emergency shelters; the shortage of hostels and temporary accommodation for the homeless, which means that more and more people end up on the street or in alternative but insecure, inadequate and illegal housing[6].

The number of people counted, whether they be roofless or homeless, or in unstable or inadequate housing, has nearly doubled in eight years (+96%) and more than doubled in 10 years (+142%). The 30% increase indicated by the 2016 count was mainly due to a sharp increase in the number of rough sleepers. The increase (23,6%) between 2016 and 2018 is nearly entirely attributable to the additional places in emergency accommodation (almost doubling the number): + 233 places in the emergency shelters organised by Samusocial and another 685 extra places allocated to a new actor 'Burgerplatform voor Steun aan de Vluchtelingen[7]' to accommodate transmigrants.

The overall priority given to women and children aiming at protecting the most vulnerable homeless has two adverse effects. Although men represent the majority of the homeless, they have limited access to hostels and temporary accommodation. Only 1/3 of the approved spaces are in hostels for homeless single men. Most centres are open to women with or without children (35%). Only 17% of the accommodation for the homeless is open to men, women and children. This clear lack

of hostels for couples or single men with children leads to a second adverse effect: families are splitting up to have access to hostels or prefer to settle in squats or makeshift shelters in public spaces. Since the end of 2015 street-workers are seeing a significant increase in homeless families, groups and camps in public spaces which was confirmed by the city count of 2016. The number of available beds in hostels and temporary accommodation only increased by 12% between 2008 and 2018: a few small centres opened for families and female victims of domestic violence and their children. This contrasts with the increase of 145% of available free beds in emergency shelters during that same period. The increase is even more significant if we add the extra spaces of the Winter Plan with a policy of non-refusal. In 2008, around 200 beds were made available during the cold season, from November to March. During winter 2016-2017, a maximum capacity of 1.350 beds in four large shelters were opened in the period November - May.

The large proportion of women and children in this type of emergency accommodation is exceptional. In most countries and cities, emergency accommodation is considered to be unsuitable for children and families. Given their vulnerability, they are preferably accommodated in hotels, in former boarding houses or in holiday lets low on business. Brussels and Paris are both facing a growing phenomenon of family homelessness[8].

Non-Belgian homeless, who are not entitled to social benefits or people with low or no income have only access to the unconditional and free emergency shelters. The living conditions in these large and crowded shelters and the obligation to share a dormitory with other men, women and families partly explain why a growing proportion of homeless people avoid these shelters. They prefer to settle in makeshift shelters in public spaces or find alternative housing in (licensed) squats, or non-approved shelters organised by religious communities or other private actors. In 2008 almost 60% of the people were counted in the emergency shelters, hostels or temporary accommodation. In November 2016, only 40% was counted in these approved accommodations for homeless (25.2% in hostels, 14% in emergency shelters). The increase to 56,5% at the March 2017 city count is entirely attributable to the extra emergency beds of the Winter plan. The existing accommodation for homelessness therefore, clearly does not meet the demand in terms of both number and type all year round.
The new strict policy on squat and the intended closure of all unauthorized shelters will complicate the search for alternative housing solutions. It will be interesting to see if the city count in November 2020 can give an insight into the impact of these changes in the policy.

Escape from homelessness

The city count also gathers data on the use of Housing First and housing let services. These data are presented in an additional chapter of the report, and the number is not included in the results of the count. The people counted in this category are considered to be former homeless. They receive long term support to preserve their house (physical, social and legal area), their well-being and integration in society. Housing First services focus on single men (2/3) and women (1/3) with a long history of chronic rooflessness and a double diagnosis (psychiatric and addiction problems). The housing let services offer support to single people and families to maintain their regained independence and housing or as an alternative for hostels (around 1200 people in 2018). The primary difficulty in developing this type of support on a large scale is the lack of affordable and suitable housing.

Moving to one's own home is a crucial key moment for a new start in life. Achieving that means a real chance for single men and women, couples or families to regain their autonomy. For some people and families, the support is limited to the transition period. A growing group of vulnerable people need, however, lifelong support to prevent them from returning to homelessness.

1 Busch-Geertsema, V., Benjaminsen, L., Filipovi Hrast, M. and Pleace, N. (2014), The Extent and Profile of Homelessness in European Member States: A Statistical Update, Brussels: FEANTSA.

2 Baptista, I., Marlier, E. (2019) Fighting Homelessness and Housing Exclusion in Europe – A Study of National Policies, Brussels: DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

3 la Strada, Steunpunt Thuislozenzorg Brussel – Centre d'appui au secteur de l'aide aux sans-abri, part of Bruss'Help since Mai 2019.

4 https://www.feantsa.org/download/benl2547081481727275985.pdf

5 Caution is required when interpreting the results of the 2018 edition on the number of people counted in public space. Due to an insufficient number of volunteers the night of the street count and crucial partners who dropped out, the methodology was not strictly applied. The number of people counted in public spaces and alternative accommodations is therefore an even greater underestimation than in previous editions.

6 Telling van dak-en thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest – november 2016/maart 2017 (2017), Brussels: Steunpunt Thuislozenzorg Brussel - la Strada.
Telling van dak-en thuislozen in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest – november 2018 (2019), Brussels: Steunpunt Thuislozenzorg Brussel - la Strada.

7 Platforme citoyenne de soutien aux réfugiés : www.bxlrefugees.be

8 Since 2010, more homeless families than single people have been staying in Parisian hotel accommodation and emergency accommodation. Hotels are not widely used in Brussels to accommodate homeless people.
Silmani L., Cheruy G. Léna M. Family homelessness in France – an overview in Homeless in Europe – Autumn (2019), Brussels: FEANTSA.
Federale overheidsdienst – Justitie, Wet van 18 oktober 2017 betreffende het onrechtmatig binnendringen in, bezetten van of verblijven in andermans goed (B.S. 6 November 2017)
Gemeenschappelijke Gemeenschapscommissie, Ordonnantie betreffende de noodhulp aan en de inschakeling van daklozen (B.S. 10 July 2018)

ETHOS

EUROPEAN TYPOLOGY OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING EXCLUSION

What is ETHOS?

ETHOS is the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion. It was developed by FEANTSA as a transnational framework definition for policy and practice purposes. It provides a shared language for transnational exchange. It does not attempt to harmonise national definitions of homelessness in Europe.

ETHOS classifies living situations that constitute homelessness or housing exclusion. ETHOS identifies 4 main categories of living situation: Rooflessness, Houselessness, Insecure Housing and Inadequate Housing. These conceptual categories are divided into 13 operational categories that can be used for different policy purposes, such as mapping the problem of homelessness, as well as developing, monitoring and evaluating policies.

Conceptual Category		OPERATIONAL CATEGORY	LIVING SITUATION		GENERIC DEFINITION
	ROOFLESS	1 People Living Rough	1.1	Public space or external space	Living in the streets or public spaces, without a shelter that can be defined as living quarters
		2 People in emergency accommodation	2.1	Night shelter	People with no usual place of residence who make use of overnight shelter, low threshold shelter
	HOUSELESS	3 People in accommodation for the homeless	3.1	Homeless hostel	
			3.2	Temporary accommodation	Where the period of stay is intended to be short term
			3.3	Transitional supported accommodation	
		4 People in Women's Shelter	4.1	Women's shelter accommodation	Women accommodated to experience of domestic violence and where the period of stay is intended to be short term
		5 People in accommodation for immigrants	5.1	Temporary accommodation/reception centres	Immigrants in reception or short term accommodation due to their immigrant status
			5.2	Migrant workers accommodation	
		6 People due to be released from institutions	6.1	Penal institutions	No housing available prior to release
			6.2	Medical institutions (*)	Stay longer than needed due to lack of housing
			6.3	Children's institutions/homes	No housing identified (e.g. by 18th birthday)
	INSECURE	7 People receiving longer-term support (due to homelessness)	7.1	Residential care for older homeless people	Long stay accommodation with care for formerly homeless people (normally more than one year)
			7.2	Supported accommodation for formerly homeless people	
		8 People living in insecure accommodation	8.1	*Temporarily with family/friends*	*Living in conventional housing* but not the usual place of residence due to lack of housing
			8.2	No legal (sub)tenancy	Occupation of dwelling with no legal tenancy illegal occupation of a dwelling
			8.3	Illegal occupation of land	Occupation of land with no legal rights
		9 People living under threat of eviction	9.1	Legal orders enforced (rented)	Where orders for eviction are operative
			9.2	Re-possession orders (owned)	Where mortagee has legal order to re-possess
		10 People living under threat of violence	10.1	Police recorded incidents	Where police action is taken to ensure place of safety for victims of domestic violence
	INADEQUATE	11 People living in temporary/ non-conventional structures	11.1	Mobile homes	Not intended as place of usual residence
			11.2	Non-conventional building	Makeshift shelter, shack or shanty
			11.3	Temporary structure	Semi-permanent structure hut or cabin
		12 People living in unfit housing	12.1	Occupied dwellings unfit for habitation	Defined as unfit for habitation by national legislation or building regulations
		13 People living in extreme over-crowding	13.1	Highest national norm of overcrowding	Defined as exceeding national density standard for floor-space or uesable rooms

Note: Short stay is defined as normally less than one year; Long stay in defined as more than one year.

(*) Includes drug rehabilitation institutions, psychiatric hospitals etc.

https://www.feantsa.org/download/ethos2484215748748239888.pdf

2.2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BRUSSELS: AN OBSTACLE COURSE FOR MOST BRUSSELS RESIDENTS

Werner Van Mieghem

Access to affordable, decent housing has become a real obstacle course for an increasing number of people in Brussels. There is a lack of supply in terms of affordable homes whereas demand for social housing is increasing each year. Individuals and families in a precarious situation are the biggest victims and often have to spend a very large part of their income on housing. The Brussels housing policy remains inadequate.

1 ° observation: poverty in Brussels affects a large part of the population

The Welfare Barometer of the Brussels-Capital Observatory for Health and Welfare, which contains a set of updated indicators on poverty, shows that a large number of Brussels residents live under challenging circumstances: "One in three Brussels residents rely on an income below the risk of the poverty threshold. More than one-fifth of 18 to 64 year-olds live on social benefits (living wage, etc.) or a replacement income (unemployment benefit, invalidity benefit) and a fourth of the children aged under 18 are living in a household without a steady income through work."[1]

2 ° observation: the range of affordable and decent rental properties is much too small: social housing, social rental offices, public housing (owned by municipalities and public social welfare centres (OCMW))

Social housing remains the best option for low-income families in need of a decent and affordable home. The rental prices in the social housing sector are low because they take the income of the tenants into account[2]. But there is an overwhelming lack of social housing in Brussels: currently, there are around 40,000 units representing only 8% of the total housing stock. That percentage is very low considering the needs of the Brussels residents.
This situation means that the number of families on the waiting list for social housing has doubled in 15 years from 22,000 15 years ago to almost 44,000 today. At the moment, families are facing a 10-year waiting time before gaining access to a social home. The waiting time is even longer for large households. It is clear that this situation will not improve in the near future. Despite the promises, plans and enormous budgets, the building of social housing continues to be delayed[3]. The average annual production is around 110 homes, and the two government housing plans (the

Housing Plan of 2003 and the Housing Alliance Plan of 2013) are insufficient to successfully reverse that trend[4].

Even when we take into account the homes owned by social rental offices (6,200)[5] and homes owned by municipalities and public social welfare centres (11,030 homes which, however, are not always rented out on social terms.[6], it brings us to 57,200 social housing units or 11.4%.

3 ° observation: most tenants are forced to turn to the private rental market.

Because the supply of rental properties of a social nature is too low, tenants – that is nearly 60% of the Brussels population – are forced to turn to the private rental market. But in that private rental market, rents are much higher. At the same time, there is no framework in the sector, and the quality control of the homes is not regular enough[7]. Rents are much too high given the low income of many Brussels residents.

This is reflected in an increasing share of the monthly budget devoted to housing so much so that households are increasingly depriving themselves of other basic needs (food, health, education, etc.). The average Brussels tenant spends between 40 and 60% of his income on rent. For young people under 25, the share of the budget spent on rent is even 60%.[8]

There is a lot of competition between the tenants in their search for a “cheaper” home, which is why many landlords increase the rent on their property, toughening up their requirements, discriminating or excluding people. This also means that a very large part of the population in Brussels has no other choice than renting at an inflated price a poor standard accommodation that does not meet the needs of the family.

4 ° observation: the Brussels housing policy is not good enough

The harsh reality is that Brussels housing policy has failed to bring about changes: few social housing units are being realized for renting purposes and there is no framework: only now do we see the implementation of an advisory commission working on social renting issues, and the allowance that was intended for low-income families is not sufficiently used because of the administrative red tape.

According to the Brusselse Bond voor het Recht op Wonen (BBRoW/RBDH), there is no real political commitment to pursue a genuine social housing policy. The Brussels government does not sufficiently defend social housing, even when building sites are available. Private landlords are not sufficiently held accountable or penalized when they rent out unhealthy overpriced housing units. The successive Brussels governments continue to weave their way between limited social measures and large tax benefits for middle incomes.

The importance of alternative housing solutions

Because the housing policy of the Brussels Capital Region is leaving out too many low-income families, alternative housing solutions are being developed by the associations: solidary forms of housing, temporary use of vacant properties, mobile living. Concrete solutions for people.

The BBRoW, therefore, calls on the Brussels government to work on a thorough approach to the housing crisis in this Region by implementing a genuine social housing policy and to support the concrete initiatives put in place by the NPO's in a structural manner.

1 Welfare barometer, Brussels Poverty Report 2018, Observatory for Health and Welfare, Brussels.

2 The average social rent was 329 euros in 2016 compared to 710 euros on the private rental market.

3 In 2004 there were 38 362 social housing units; in 2016 39 586 housing units. Source: BGHM annual reports.

4 Figures from our publication " Sociale huisvesting : kroniek van een decennium voor bijna niets (Social housing: chronicle of a decade for almost nothing)". http://www.rbdh-bbrow.be/spip.php?article1870

5 Figures of September 2019.

6 De Keersmaecker Marie-Laurence and Zimmer Pol, 'Le Logement à Bruxelles entre héritage et perspectives', Presses Universitaires de Louvain, 2019, p. 229.

7 More than one fifth of Brussels residents experience quality problems in the home.

8 Observation center Rental Prices, 2017.

Amine: *"For a long time, I lived in shelters, where I had to live together with many people. This project has given me personal space again, already in the temporary occupation. But I think that in the final project that will be even more: a stable home. There is a housing crisis and affordable housing is very important."*

Aurelie: *"The current Corona-crisis made me realize how lucky I am that I am living in a more than decent house... It made me reflect even more on the unfairness of our housing and real estate system. This project more or less navigates this system and tries to make clever use of its temporary leftover spaces, but at the same time it is also questioning the system itself and it helps to rethink our approach to land ownership... I think it is about time we start asking questions about the impact of our current space consumption and the marketisation of housing."*

Geraldine: *"It was time for a new approach to the theme of housing: another manifestation, another action in parliament... By showing in real life how things can be done differently, we are now reaching the policy makers as well."*

Omar: *"For me, the project is a good solution to the housing crisis."*

2.3 TEMPORARY USE

TEMPORARY USE AND TACTICAL URBAN PLANNING

Aurelie De Smet

During the economic recession at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, the technocratic urban planning in which the government played a crucial part, began to fail. On the one hand, government resources became insufficient to draw up and put in place urban redevelopment plans on their own. On the other hand, a growing number of stakeholders wanted and needed to be involved in the planning of post-industrial urban spaces, resulting in complex and lengthy procedures (Boelens et al., 2006; Harvey, 2012). As a result, contemporary Western cities are often facing a certain number of sites that are temporarily left un(der)used. Those sites, whether public or private, small or large, built or bare, have something in common: they have been abandoned by the previous use(r) and have yet to be reallocated because their future use needs to be determined or their redevelopment process has been delayed.

As a result, those sites seem to be 'temporarily out of use'. They end up in some sort of a pause, a 'waiting period' in their functionality, hence we are calling them 'Waiting Spaces' (Faraone & Sarti, 2008; Studio Urban Catalyst, 2012; De Smet, 2013). In the light of a search for cheaper or easier-to-realise solutions, both in terms of accommodation (available at low cost) and programs (spontaneous, self-organizing) and for alternative approaches to urban planning, design and management (more flexible, sustainable and inclusive), urban planners and architects started to notice how, even without official redevelopment efforts or despite failing or stalling official processes, interesting things were sometimes going on in these Waiting Spaces.

Based on the study of a large number of cases, De Smet, 2013 distinguished roughly three motivations for temporary use (TU) of Waiting Spaces. Putting aside activities which are temporary in nature (such as markets and fairs), as these were not the topic of interest in her study, she discerned: TU out of necessity, TU out of opportunism and TU as activism[1]. She also noted that these different forms of TU frequently occur in combination. However, our argument is that Waiting Spaces are also offering opportunities for the fourth type of TU: 'TU for inclusion'. In this case, the primary goal is social innovation. The users involved in this type of TU consider traditional (top-down) approaches to be ineffective and are aiming at developing alternative solutions of a more proactive and inclusive nature. Waiting Spaces are providing them with the space to test out these innovative approaches in real life. As such, this type of TU seems to offer interesting opportunities for spatial planning, design and management.

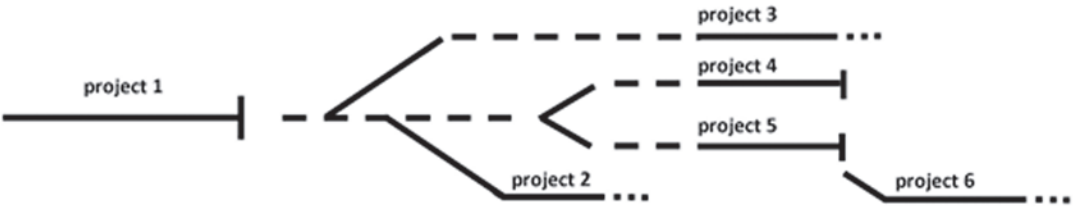
Recently, several researchers started to study the wide variety of urban interventions arising today, which are related to socio-spatial issues but are not part of any standard planning processes (Urhahn Urban Design, 2010; Bishop & Williams, 2012; Krivý & Kaminer, 2013; De Smet, 2013; Ferguson, 2014; Pak, 2017; De Smet & Van Reusel, 2017). These interventions signal a new and more inclusive approach to urban planning. At this point, we can even see a paradigm shift (Krivý & Kaminer, 2013): all around the world, citizens are starting to claim a shaping power over the ways in which our cities are made and remade (Harvey, 2012). Therefore, spatial planners, designers and managers are increasingly motivated to find new ways of engaging with a multiplicity of actors and stakeholders are interested in being a part of the spatial design process.

In this context, some researchers have put forward the notion of 'tactical urban planning' (De Smet & Van Reusel, 2018). In this top-down/bottom-up approach, 'temporary use of Waiting Spaces' becomes part of the planning process as such, allowing urban (re) development projects to develop incrementally from experiment to implementation.

Three main characteristics of tactical/transitional urban planning:

- an incremental approach, focussing on the impact of a synthesis of a strategic long-term vision and tactical short-term actions and the temporary as a window of opportunity,
- a desire-oriented program, in which the future for a place can be developed with and by the users and thus is able to better respond to their needs and desires and,
- transversal collaboration, based on intermingled collaboration and mutual understanding and respect between the top and the bottom

As such, tactical urban planning does focus more on processes and actor-coalitions than predefined outcomes (Boonstra & Boelens, 2011), and aims at fulfilling long-term aspirations whilst connecting local and global issues. Tactical urban planning thus necessarily entails a phase of experimentation starting when the previous use comes to an end. During that phase, traditional planning professionals should start to work together with alternative stakeholders in order to gradually build a new future for the area. This methodology would not only be more likely to allow for a more innovative kind of future but would also facilitate the redevelopment process by mobilizing wider support from the local community.



TACTICAL URBAN PLANNING

However, given the increase in tactical approaches in urban planning, 'temporary use of Waiting Space' processes are increasingly put in place. This raises the issue of who is entitled to those spaces which were previously neglected by the traditional urban planning stakeholders and were thus pre-eminently available for more vulnerable users. How can we increase urban resilience through (temporary) solidarity projects on un(der)used urban spaces and how can vulnerable users be encouraged to assume ownership of these spaces?

1 In the case of 'TU out of necessity' we are dealing with users who are unable to carry out their activities in the usual urban spaces. Cost saving is often a priority in this type of TU.
'TU out of opportunism' involves users who are seeing an opportunity in un(der)used spaces and are trying to realize a surplus for themselves through the temporary use. In this type of TU the agenda of the user is the priority and the site is more or less seen as a blank canvas.
In the case of 'TU as activism' we are dealing with users who are reacting directly to a (spatial or ideological) challenge of a space and/or its surroundings. Through their actions they are trying to overcome this challenge and realize a 'juster' city.

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2.4 LEGAL ASPECTS

TEMPORARY/MOBILE HOUSING AND THE LAW IN BRUSSELS

Nicolas Bernard, Laurent Debroux

Independent from the topic of how laudable projects aiming at providing vulnerable people with temporary and/or mobile housing are, it must be acknowledged that they are just starting to be considered by authorities at every level. The wide diversity of housing in these projects makes the legislator's task extremely difficult. Indeed, these projects are often faced with legal obstacles that, although much less numerous than in the past, remain almost insurmountable and require a case-by-case housing study.
Whether it is a matter of the environment in which the dwelling unit will be built or occupied, the project developer has to comply with a variety of laws. So, when it comes to selecting, when possible, the site of temporary or mobile housing, urban and spatial planning related restrictions are unavoidable.

In Brussels, the Regional Land Use Plan or PRAS[1] (GBP in Dutch) – or any other Specific Land Use Plan (PPAS/BBP) – divides the territory into different zones. Every one of them is supposed to be made available in order to build structures for specific activities (trade, industry, housing, and so on). Therefore, those projects cannot be carried out everywhere in the region, since they must abide by the PRAS/GBP rules and its planning criteria.

Furthermore, a valid and specific construction permit must, in principle, be issued by the mayor and his staff. Indeed, whether the project involves erecting a building or engineering works,[2] making changes to an existing construction,[3] changing the intended use of a property as described in the construction or town planning permit,[4] or changing the number of dwelling units in an existing construction,[5] the project developer will have to get that precious administrative authorisation, save some exceptions.

Getting a town planning permit is a particularly lengthy process that jeopardizes the urgency of the goal pursued by the project developer of the temporary or mobile housing project. Luckily, the existing legislation does contain a few exceptions that may be applied in such cases. These include the so-called "de minime importance" regional decree,[6] which specifies which types of works are exempted from a permit and gives the possibility of requesting a limited-term town-planning permit, thereby making it easier to be granted such a permit.

A draft decree (arrêté),[7] which was adopted by the Government on first reading on 16 May 2019, is supposed to replace the "de minime importance" decree. This draft establishes two concepts absent from or merely touched upon in the decree of 13 November 2008, namely, that of "modular dwellings" and "temporary occupancy for social purposes", which would be either exempted from the permit requirement or be eligible for a shorter permit procedure.

In the same way, the legislation in Brussels intends to integrate temporary facilities and occupancy through the reform of the decree on limited-term town planning permits. Under the legislation in its current state, when the housing project meets the conditions allowing it to be set up in a specific environment, the temporary and/or mobile housing itself still has to comply with a wide-ranging set of standards. So, it will have to meet the health standards imposed on all housing by the Brussels Housing Code.[8] [9]It will also have to comply with the habitability standards that are laid out in Title II of the Regional Town Planning Regulation (RRU/GSV) and are mandatory for all constructions and works subject to town planning permits.[10] Connected to this requirement, we draw attention to the draft revision of the RRU/GSV that the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region adopted (on first reading) on 24 January 2019. The revised regulation, amongst other things, excludes modular dwellings from the field of application of its Title II. As a result, such dwellings will no longer have to comply with these standards.

Once the housing is set up in compliance with the town planning requirements and health and habitability standards, the promoter must still choose the appropriate contractual relationship with its occupants whilst avoiding that, as a result thereof, the occupants will lose any of their rights or benefits in light of special conditions attached to the housing, be it as regards an official address or reduced benefits due to cohabitation.

1 Brussels-Capital Regional Government decree (arrêté) of 3 May 2001 adopting the Regional Land Use Plan, Moniteur belge/Belgisch Staatsblad, 14 June 2001, err., 27 September 2002, 14 April 2010, 16 April 2010, and 23 April 2010. See specifically the so-called "demographic" PRAS/GBP (Brussels-Capital Regional Government decree (arrêté) of 2 May 2013 adopting the partial modification of the Regional Land Use Plan decreed on 3 May 2001, MB/BS, 29 November 2013).

2 3 4 5 Article 98(§1) 1, 2, 5, 12 of the Brussels Spatial Planning Code (CoBAT/BWRO)

6 Brussels-Capital Regional Government decree (arrêté) specifying the actions and works for which town planning permits, opinions of the managing civil servant, of the Royal Commission on Monuments and Sites, and the Joint Consultation Commission, as well as special public announcement measures and/or the services of an architect are waived, MB/BS, 2 December 2008.

7 Draft decree (arrêté) of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region specifying the actions and works for which town planning permits and the opinions of administrations and bodies that are required under the Brussels Spatial Planning Code, special public announcement measures, and/or an architect's services are waived.

8 Title III, Chapter 1, Art. 4 of the CoBAT

9 In an at the very least surprising twist, whilst the obligation to meet these standards applies to all housing, penalties are foreseen only in the case of rentals. Housing that is provided under a precarious occupancy agreement consequently escapes such penalties.

10 Title II, Art. 1(§3)1 of the Regional Town Planning Regulation.

PRACTICES OF SOLIDARITY

3.1 GUIDANCE & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Tineke Van Heesvelde

Two different frameworks of practices were brought together for the support of inhabitants in Solidary Mobile Housing (SMH). First, community development (Samenlevingsopbouw) uses the practical framework “strengthening people in socially vulnerable positions”. Second, within the CAW, the work was carried out with methods of individual assistance as is customary in supported housing, which is also called integrated customized housing support. In this text, we investigate how these frameworks are aligned, where they differ and what complementarity these produce. We illustrate this with practical examples.

Strengthening people

The association Samenlevingsopbouw aims to eliminate situations of deprivation and exclusion in our society. This social mission falls into two core missions: the political core mission towards structural policy change, and the agogic[1] core mission. The latter assignment is tackled by strengthening and supporting people in socially vulnerable positions. This reinforcement is based on social vulnerability as an explanation for situations of deprivation and exclusion. Exclusion is caused by a combination of mutually reinforcing factors on three levels: structural, institutional and individual. It is only by working on these levels simultaneously that something can change about the situation of deprivation.

Specifically, for the SMH project, the focus was on the right to adequate housing and the support of people excluded from it. Eight houseless men were grouped for this project. They worked in a group on a solution for their own housing problems, but also on the development of a new housing model. In addition, they were supported at different levels. The goal was for them to develop a more positive self-image, discover their own talents and those of the other group members. Because they form a group with people in a similar situation, they could also become aware of social exclusion mechanisms and desirable changes in institutions and social structures or need for a different policy. The group-oriented approach was also a learning opportunity for participation and cooperation. The group approach consisted of co-creation moments, in which the inhabitants participated in the development of the project, for example together with the students and researchers from the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven, and architects. It also included participation in practical workshops and training modules to help with the construction of their home and the collective space. And finally, the group approach was also a learning opportunity for cooperation, living together in a group: mutual organization, communication... In the future, this will be expanded with the construction of a larger solidary network with the neighbourhood in which the dwellings will be placed, and by this a group interaction with the neighbourhood.

Integrated customized housing support

The frame of reference for assisting homeless people within the CAW is 'integrated tailor-made housing support'. This can be summarized in several key concepts.

Integrated support is provided because work is carried out in the various life domains that are interdependent. With the person in question, the social worker looks at what he needs to strengthen his well-being in the different areas of life so that his basic rights can be realized.

Another notion is proximity. The individual worker is very close to the client and gets involved a bit in his life. For example, he goes on a home visit, sees what is happening there, puts his affairs in order, can accompany the client to services to experience the barriers that these services can bring...

Tailor-made work means that there are no predefined procedures or drawn up assistance plans. Every person is different, has a different story, is at a different time in his life, has different needs. So, the social worker tries to write a customized assistance plan or trajectory. That also means working in a process-oriented way: one works towards something that one determines together with the client. This can change "along the way" as the client makes different choices or other things come up his life path.
Strengthening or empowering work is another core value. The emphasis is on the client's strengths. Where possible, problems are translated into opportunities for growth. The assistance or experiences that the client gains are tried to be anchored in a sustainable way, making him stronger afterwards.

Finally, the notion of time is also important. The counsellor enters a relationship with the client, and it takes time to shape and expand that relationship. One of the things that is very important in this is involving the person's network. It starts with the relation with the social worker or with the organization but is often spontaneously expanded to other clients of the service or with volunteers. By this, the client's network is redesigned.

This brings us to the final core concept: encounter. Homeless people have often cut off all ties with family, friends…By making that encounter possible, they build up the necessary self-confidence to continue.

1+1=3?

Both frameworks are starting from a fundamental belief in the resilience and power of people to put their lives back on track. While Samenlevingsopbouw starts from a group with a shared problem and wants to come to a solution, CAW starts with the individual and his needs. The linking of the two perspectives is a real added value, especially for vulnerable groups.

From the perspective of the individual care provider, it is an added value to be able to link the individual to the collective. It is a step in the direction of bigger participation in society, regaining trust in group work, being able to take the initiative embedded in a larger whole and receiving support for that. In the context of this pilot project, there is also the dimension of doing something for society, pushing boundaries. That also helps in individual counselling towards the capacity of the participants to tackle some issues and take steps that would otherwise not be possible.

From the perspective of the community development of Samenlevingsopbouw, it is important that all persons in the group are also helped on an individual level. Because, for example, all their documents are in order, the budget is under control, health is monitored, and the person can go somewhere with his individual questions and doubts, free space in mind is created to be involved in the project. The project is then much more than the realization of eight dwellings on a vacant urban lot. It is also about developing a solidarity network based on the competencies and strengths of all participants.

In practice…

Some examples from practice. One of the participants (X) often drops out prematurely during the workshops. X has a disease that causes him to suddenly become very tired but does not want the others in the group to know this. There is some resentment about the contribution of X "if work needs to be done". The community worker signals this to X and to the individual social worker. The latter further addresses the issue in individual discussions. At one of the following meetings, X asks the floor: he has "practiced" with the individual worker to be able to explain his problem in the group. The group reacts heart-warming. A major burden has fallen off X's shoulders, but this is also healing for the group: an annoying issue has been mined, and an atmosphere of confidence is created that also personal matters can be shared in the group.

Another participant (Y) is very often "begging": can I have a cigarette, coffee, may I eat with you ... The co-inhabitants mainly talk about this when Y is not present. It is starting to get on the nerves of some of the others. The individual social worker knows that Y has a problem with the payment of his income, so he has very little money. Moreover, everyone finds it very difficult to communicate in a group about such matters. By conducting this conversation in a guided way, empathy arises for both perspectives in this story. This also gives confidence for similar discussions in the future.

Participant Z has run a very difficult life in recent years. Everything went wrong. Due to the individual guidance, we know that Z had a lot to offer in a previous life and could also take professional responsibility. We include this element in the group approach to allow Z to gradually assume more responsibility.

The Solidary Mobile Housing project is a complex project that requires a great deal of commitment from the participants. Nevertheless, the group was able to appropriate the project. There is a justified pride of the pioneers: "We are the pilot-group. We now work for all projects that will come after us." In the meantime, the project has come a long way: the group is developing and often dynamics arise that require follow-up at both group and individual level. The individual and the group counsellor try both to incorporate this as well as possible from their complementary competencies and perspectives.

1 Agogic: the doctrine of guiding, directing or enabling policy-making processes of change in people. This social science studies how people change and provides clues on how this can be influenced and guided.

Jeremy: *"I have also had many new insights about the group: there are many different ways to show involvement: one person has a big mouth and is always talking, but that doesn't mean that the others aren't involved either. Everyone has different ways of expressing themselves. And if you keep believing in them, then they will come across and everyone appears to be willing. "*

Amine: *"There is also the group aspect. In our culture, we're used to being with a lot of people anyway, so I don't have a problem with that in itself. The group already gets to know each other better and sometimes things come our way, so we can use our talents or experience. For example, I heard this week that they want to start a bike workshop here at home and also bake pizza once in a while. I immediately said that I wanted to help: I have lived in Italy and learned to cook there. That will come in handy now!"*

Tineke: *"The realisation of the project took longer than we had hoped, but it did give us the opportunity to go through a whole process with the future inhabitants. It is wonderful to be able to work with a small group for such a long time and to be able to go into depth. It is also unbelievable to see how motivated people continue to cooperate, because in this project they see an answer to one of their basic needs."*

Rosie: *"Being involved in something socially engaged, being able to play an in between role, being involved in the action, even cleaning the terrain... It takes time to build a relationship, come to agreements, to build a community. Also, to trust each other and allow others to make decisions."*

Petrus: *"As a CAW worker in the project I offer psycho-social guidance to the inhabitants, a thick year in function now. Before that I was a supervisor of young people in a day-care and time-out project. The fact that I have a new target group, a new social fabric and a close cooperation with community workers requires some adjustment. The main findings are that the relationship that is built up with the inhabitants needs time. Adult men who take their lives back into their own hands give me the role to assist them in this process and that doesn't happen in a few weeks. Building a bond of trust is the beginning of guidance and this cannot be forced or enforced. On the other hand, this slowly built relationship is closer and more resistant to time. Each relationship grows at its own rhythm and this also determines the extent to which problems become discussable. This means that some inhabitants are now very open and communicative with me and others share very little and are difficult to reach. "*

Marc: *"What I also learned is how we can live together with people we wouldn't normally live with: we start to see everyone's shortcomings, but we also see that everyone has certain qualities. "*

Bob: *"It has also taught me that sometimes we can expect more from our target group: we constantly underestimate them, keeping them unconsciously small. Maybe we can raise the bar a little higher. Of course, we also need sufficient intensive support in return. The height of the bar is proportional to the intensity of the guidance."*

Bob: *"The collaboration with the community work was also an eye opener for me. The complementarity of these two ways of working has a serious added value towards the participants, certainly in combination with co-creation, skill building ... In this project empowerment and emancipation become very tangible, very realistic for me. I have seen people grow."*

3.2 WAITING SPACES AS SPACES OF NEGOTIATION

Aurelie De Smet, Geraldine Bruyneel, Burak Pak

As addressed in section 2.3., temporary use of Waiting Spaces can play an important role in the redevelopment of the city and offer an alternative approach to the creation of collective spaces. But in this context, questions are rising on which users are entitled to claim these spaces - previously neglected by the mainstream urban actors and thus pre-eminently available to alternative, more vulnerable users. In this context, the SMH project is an experiment on how Waiting Spaces could be transformed from underutilized resources or useless leftovers to spaces of solidarity, by offering room for housing for the home- and/or houseless.

Selecting a site for SMH

Although the intention is to locate on urban Waiting Spaces, this does not mean the SMH/M wants to hide away houseless people on in a forgotten corner of the city. The ambition is for SMH communities to be able to settle on sites that fit our collectively determined location criteria and that are offering the inhabitants plenty of opportunities (see below). As such we started by co-developing a method for (1) finding possible locations (site discovery), (2) selecting a suitable location (site selection) and (3) negotiating a temporary use agreement with the site owner. These three aspects had to be developed simultaneously and in interaction with each other.

To detect possible locations for the solidary mobile housing and collective space(s) we combined three methods, which each turned out to have a number of benefits and constraints.

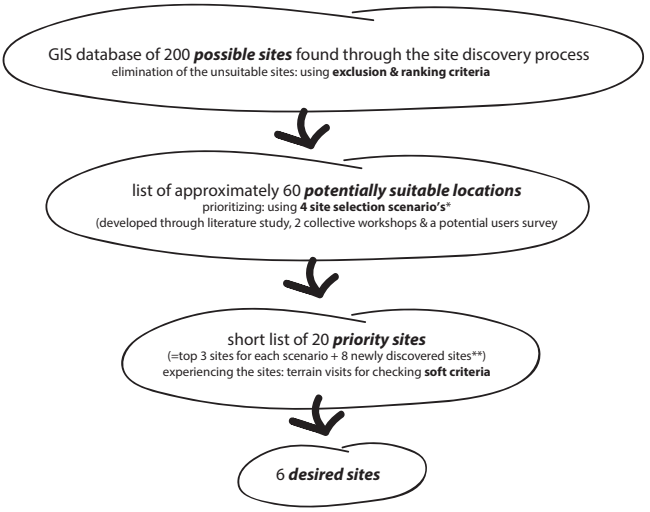
One of the methods we used was the ‘top down’ approach where we requested a list of vacant sites bigger than 500m2 from a Brussels Capital Region Planning Agency, perspective.brussels, an expertise center for the development of regional territorial development strategy. This agency provided us with a database of 154 vacant sites. The merit of this approach is that it is rigorous and verifiable. However, as there is no contact with the site owners whatsoever, it is very unclear if these would indeed be open to temporary use. Moreover, the efficiency of this approach also depends a lot on the quality and usability of the supplied information, especially if it is up to date.

This approach was combined with a 'targeted enquiry' approach, in which we invited institutional landowners (like social housing companies, the Regional Development Agency and the 19 municipalities), to participate in our project by making un(der) used sites owned by them available to us. We contacted them through phone calls, formal interviews and/or written requests (letters). This approach turned out to be very useful at this stage of the project, as it provided us with the opportunity to contact a lot of people and present the project to them. But this process also took up a huge amount of time. Moreover, for the success of this approach, it is critical that within institutions, the right person is addressed.

In addition, we also used a 'bottom-up' approach in which we tried to detect un(der)used sites ourselves by: roaming the city to spot un(der)used sites, having a lot of informal conversations on the project with several stakeholders and searching for opportunities in media reports. Although this approach sometimes yielded very 'hot off the press' information, it however also required a lot of time and effort. As within the context of this approach we had to figure out everything ourselves such as: who is the owner? what is the term of vacancy? are there any other projects already planned on the site?

The combination of these three approaches eventually yielded a longlist of approximately 200 possible sites, from which we then needed to select the suitable one(s) for the project. To do so, we first drew up a set of socio-spatial site selection criteria, on the basis of literature study and a series of brainstorms with all the project partners.

Thereafter, we developed a step-by-step, wide to narrow site selection method. (This approach was elaborated in the framework of the research-elective course 'Urban Projects, Collective Spaces & Local Identities' organized at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture, coordinated by Aurelie de Smet, Burak Pak, Yves Schoonjans, Geraldine Bruyneel, Tineke Van Heesvelde and Dieter Van Den Broeck.)


GIS database of 200 ***possible sites*** found through the site discovery process
elimination of the unsuitable sites: using **exclusion & ranking criteria**
list of approximately 60 ***potentially suitable locations***
prioritizing: using **4 site selection scenario's***
(developed through literature study, 2 collective workshops & a potential users survey
short list of 20 ***priority sites***
(=top 3 sites for each scenario + 8 newly discovered sites**)
experiencing the sites: terrain visits for checking **soft criteria**
6 ***desired sites***

** As our literature study showed an abundant amount of, sometimes contradictory, approaches for determining the suitability of the sites for affordable housing, we decided to use a scenario-based approach.*

*** With the aim of increasing our chances of finding the best possible sites, the 'targeted enquiry' and/or 'bottom-up' site discovery were continued, in parallel with the research-elective. Each newly discovered site underwent the site selection process illustrated above. As a result, after the research-elective, eight newly found potentially suitable sites were added to the priority sites shortlist.*

In the framework of this wide to narrow site selection several instruments were developed: a GIS database with socio-economic indicators, a potentiality map based on the ranking criteria, and site selection scenarios with accompanying formulas for filtering the database.

From the site selection process, we learnt that combining top-down and bottom-up processes was the best approach for finding suitable locations for Solidary Mobile Housing. Also, drawing up and keeping up to date a database of the BCR Waiting Spaces would be very useful (also for other temporary use initiatives), but this would take up a lot of time/money. Moreover, we learned (both from our literature study and from experience) that it would be virtually impossible to find an optimal - general and prescriptive - solution for locating affordable housing. Therefore, in collaboration with future users, we developed a way to find a local, satisficing solution.

Negotiating the temporary use

As the selection of the final site would depend on the willingness of the owner to make up an agreement for the temporary use of his site with us, in the next step we started-up negotiations with the owners of the six desired sites, resulting from the site selection process. In this context, we first drew up a 'site ID card' for each of the sites that were 'still in the running'. These cards, including all the relevant information gathered about the site, allowed to keep track of the negotiation process.

UYTTENHOVE	**JETTE**
	Adres: Rosalie Uyttenhovestraat 1090 Jette (kruising Bulinsstraat) **Eigendom:** privaat
	Observaties terreinbezoek: (toekomstige bewoners) - Zeer charmant terrein: besloten doordat het in de diepte ligt tov de straat en doordat het helemaal afgezoomd is ofwel door muren van de aanpalende gebouwen ofwel door hagen. Zeer rustig gelegen!! Geen inkijk. - Goeie ligging ten opzichte van openbaar vervoer, voldoende faciliteiten in de omgeving. - Het terrein voelt zeer klein aan, wordt een uitdaging om er met acht te kunnen wonen. - Er is een bewoner, die nog niemand gezien of gesproken heeft, maar die wel degelijk langskomt (sporen nalaat).
Bijkomende opmerkingen: Dit terrein zit **niet** in de perimeter van het wijkcontract (valt er net erbuiten).	

Since the negotiations did not immediately provide an opportunity in the short term, the 'targeted enquiry' and/or 'bottom-up' site discovery were also continued, in parallel with the negotiations.

This process went on for quite a while, as we learnt that in practice, the difficulty did not so much lie in finding and selecting suitable sites for our project, but much more in the ability to get access to these Waiting Spaces. First of all, there is no database/overview of the vacant terrains in the BCR (even not for the public terrains). So, after a suitable site has been detected, it is very hard to enter into negotiation with its owner. Second, in our experience, also public owners often seem to favor more 'easy going' (low risk, trendy and even monetizable) types of temporary use instead of socially oriented and alternative housing projects.
However, in the spring of 2018, we were finally able to reach an agreement, both with the Jette municipality for the use of a site that is part of the Neighbourhood Contract Magritte and (as that site will only be available in the coming year) also with the cultural organization, that owns the adjacent site, which we can use until the municipal site becomes available. In this context, we also worked on the development of a temporary use agreement template.

Designing for temporary use

As our aim was to design mobile and modular housing able to settle on many different sites, the lack of a site agreement did not necessarily delay the design process.

In order to proceed with the design process, we organized a design studio - the Solidary Mobile Housing Design Studio (SMH DS) - at the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven (see also section 3.2 for more on this). All the project partners (including the future inhabitants) were closely involved in this studio.

For the (preliminary) design of the houses and collective space(s) in the context of the SMH DS, we selected six different types of hypothetical sites (+ four back-up sites) from the GIS database of possible sites. First, the students were divided into groups of three. Each group worked on a collective analysis and vision for one of the six selected sites. Then, they illustrated and tested the different possibilities for each site through their individual designs. At the end of the DS, we swapped the sites, and the students had to re-implement their designs on another site, to test the flexibility of their proposals.

Throughout the SMH DS, different methods and techniques for co-design and participative feedback were employed, like site visits, study trips, interactive review & evaluation sessions and hands-on workshops. In the context of the temporary use of Waiting Spaces, the participatory site visits are especially interesting, as these enable the participants to experience the sites together and start up a discussion about them. This allowed the students to see the sites from the eyes of the inhabitants and vice versa.

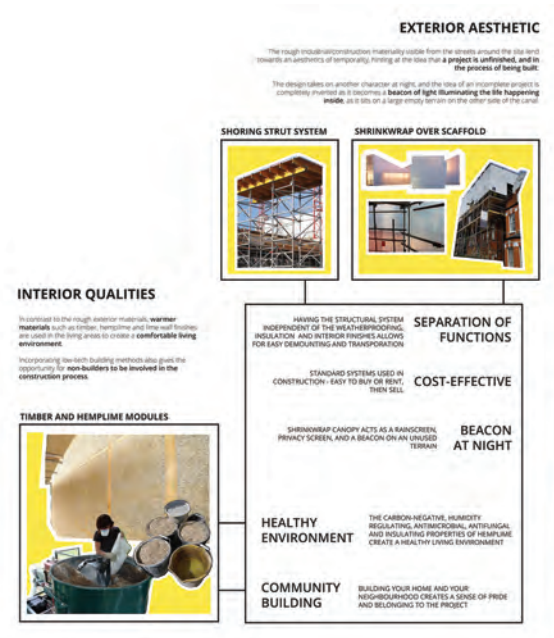
Moreover, the SMH DS was organized in a temporary use site (the 24th floor of the WTC 1 tower). This provided a less institutional, more low-threshold location where students could learn about temporary use by experience and collaborate freely with each other, the tutors, the involved NPO's and the future inhabitants.

From the SMH DS process, we learnt that, although Waiting Spaces can seem intimidating for ordinary users, the SMH project puts forward the legitimacy of temporary use in education and practice. By illustrating the affordances of the Waiting Spaces through design, the SMH DS helped us to break prejudices towards temporary use of Waiting Spaces.

Also, as a result of the challenge of locating the design temporarily on Waiting Spaces during the SMH DS, some of the 'traditional' values and characteristics of architectural and landscape design were put into question.

Firstly, design thinking for temporary use helped the students to establish a novel link between space and time, overcoming the past conception of a static building program and reframe architecture as a 'process of change' (Boeri & Pak, 2017).

Secondly, the temporality of the design also brought forward less evident values and characteristics like mobility/ability to be demounted, reversibility, incrementalism/adaptability/ flexibility and openness/informality. As a result, the envisioned performative nature of design in Waiting Spaces, the extensive appropriation of readily available, light and reversible materials brought forward a new aesthetics.



Thirdly, the temporality of the planned interventions and limitations of the appropriation below the ground triggered innovative landscape design explorations. This resulted in experiments with what we call ‘non-invasive design’.

Finally, designing for temporary use thus also questioned the traditional notions of ‘private’ and ‘public’. Reimaging the surroundings of the housing units as part of a dynamic semi-public space, enabling interactions between the inhabitants and the neighbourhood, evoked questions on how to share these spaces and turn them into (temporary/alternative) public spaces.

In this context, we noticed that designing for temporary use of Waiting Spaces, brought to light the connections, patterns and underlying (political) values of urban (waiting) spaces and opened discussion on ‘the right to the city’. As Nassaeur (2013, cited in Frantzeskaki, 2016) also points out: ‘designing landscapes together across diverse participants is not only a means of engagement, it is a means of mutual learning and rectification of differences, at least within the frame of the selected landscape’.

Conclusions

Having the future inhabitants and all the partners participating in the site selection and design process for the SMH temporary use was an inclusive way of exploring the possibilities and limitations of Waiting Spaces for housing. What became clear throughout this process, is that SMH has the potential to transform Waiting Spaces to spaces of negotiation, where resistance to (or transgression of) the dominant order, questioning of the inclusive character of the city, the creation of true public space and innovation and experimentation can occur (De Smet, 2014). As such, they prove to be ideal stages for of Latour's hybrid forums (Callon et al., 2009) or Habermas 'spaces of communication'. In line with what De Smet (2013) concluded, Waiting Spaces can thus be seen as real-life laboratories, where alternative actors can take the centre stage and new (power) relations and new ways of engagement can arise.

However, we believe more work needs to be done in the context of facilitating access to Waiting Spaces for social/solidary temporary uses. Together with other socially oriented temporary use actors from the BCR we will continue putting this on the agenda of scientific and governmental organizations. In our opinion, the BCR should take a much more facilitating role towards supporting social/solidary projects in temporary use, as these can help ensure the right to the city for vulnerable people, whose rights are often curtailed by the privatization of space in the BCR.

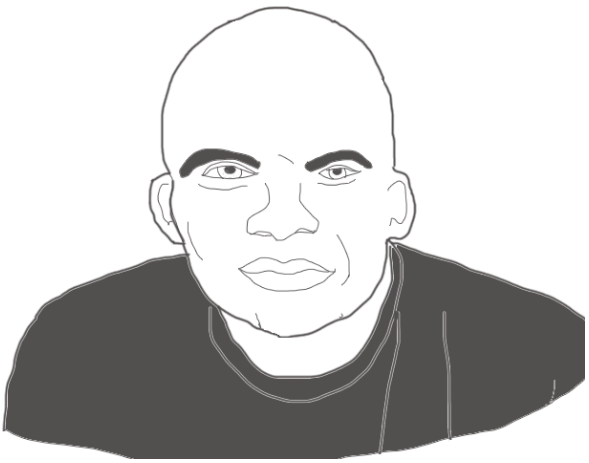
Boeri, A. & Pak, B. (2017). Designing Socio-spatial Infrastructures with Time in Mind: Reimagining Istanbul Sali Pazari. In: ENVISIONING ARCHITECTURE: SPACE/TIME/MEANING, The proceedings of the 13th Biennial International Conference of the European Architectural Envisioning Association at the Glasgow School of Art, 2017. 1st ed. [online] Glasgow, UK: Glasgow School of Art. Available at: http://uir.ulster.ac.uk/38617/2/GSA-2017 - EnvisioningArchitecture.pdf [Accessed 25 May 2018]

De Smet, A. (2013). The role of temporary use in urban (re)development: examples from Brussels [Pdf]. Brussels Studies, General collection, no 72. Available at: http://brussels.revues.org/1196 [Accessed 14.03.2020].

De Smet, A. (2014). The role of temporary use of Waiting Spaces. Eindverslag onderzoeksproject PRFB 2008 'Tijdelijk gebruik als eerste stap naar herwaardering en revitalisatie'. Brussels: KU Leuven, Faculty of Architectur e.

Frantzeskaki, N. (2016). Urban resilience: a concept for co-creating cities of the future [Pdf]. Resilient Europe. European Union: European programme for sustainable development Available at: https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/resilient_europe_baseline_study.pdf [Accessed 14.03.2020].

Didier: *"Working in a group, also the work in the workshops, has taught me things that I had no idea of. And also, from the architects I learned a lot. I realise that such a project can only succeed by working together with all those different partners."*



Aurelie: *"Before the project started, I really didn't know what to expect from the collaboration with the NPO's and end users. However, in general I like to consider myself as a person that likes to learn from everyone, so I made up my mind to be open to everything. And boy, I haven't been disappointed! So many times along the way, I was amazed at what others can bring to the table... even if it is not their domain. I think that is in fact the clue: what this project made clear to me is that we should stop considering ourselves as specialists in this or that and start to look across the borders of our own disciplines and of the context we were brought up in!"*

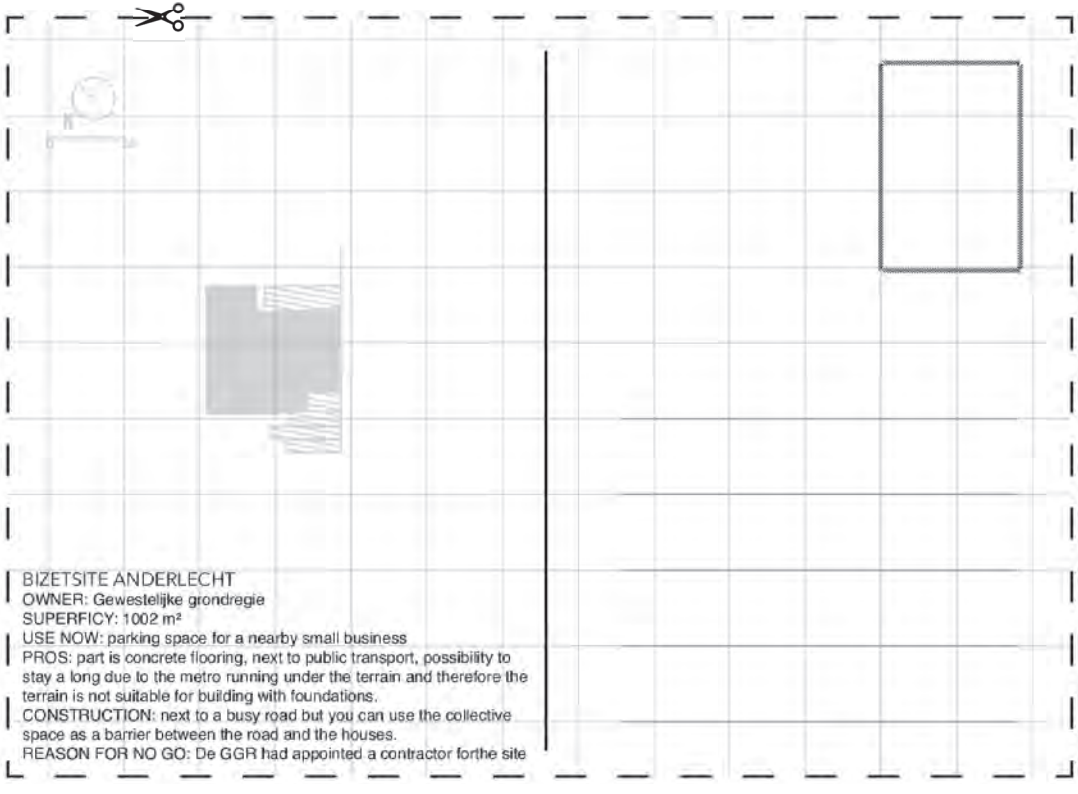
Geraldine: *"By very actively building a partnership for the project, we have been able to bring together all the necessary expertise, which is very interesting, everyone learns from everyone, everyone also partly crawls into the role of the other partners, in a certain way and at times everyone becomes an architect, a researcher, a community worker, a participant.... We all learn an awful lot."*

Omar: *"What I have also seen is the power of cooperation. It's a good initiative to bring everyone together and let everyone learn from each other!"*

Rosie: *"SMH is an eye-opening project. It's amazing how much different disciplines can help each other. I also learnt a lot from the work with groups, how to mediate and how important it is to involve the people."*

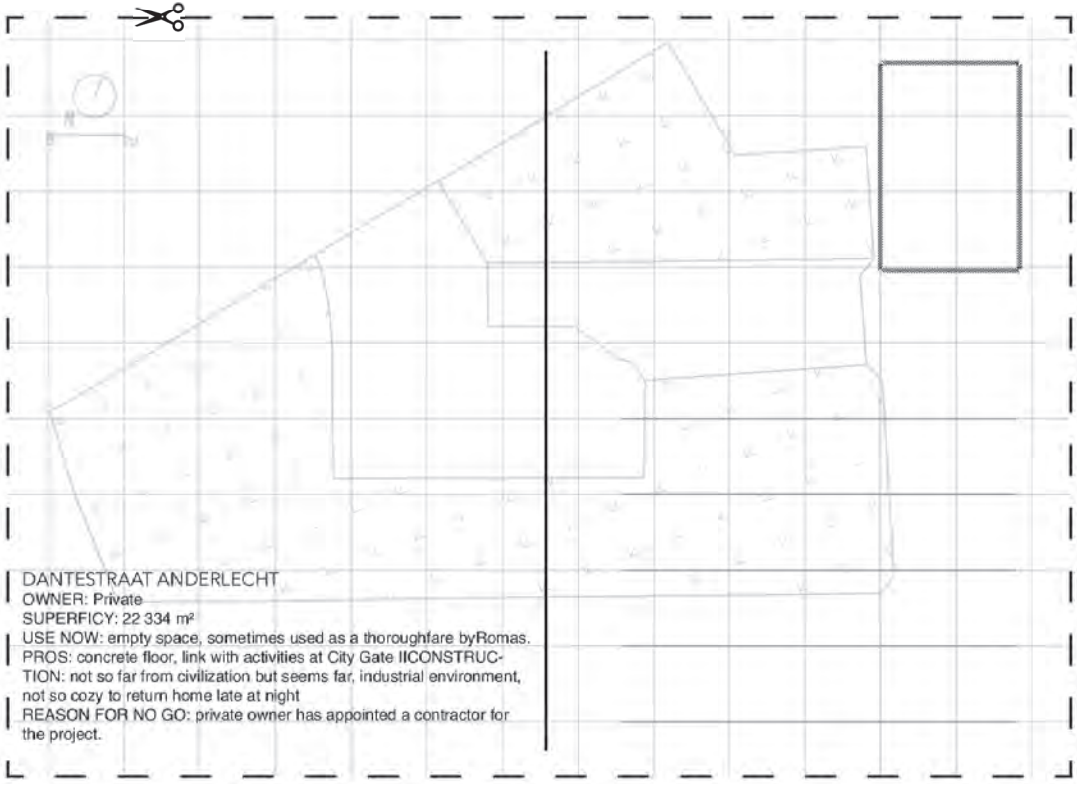
Robert: *"What really appeals to me in this project is the "degree of humanity". I see that everyone is very committed to making this project a reality."*

PERMANENT STATE OF WAITING



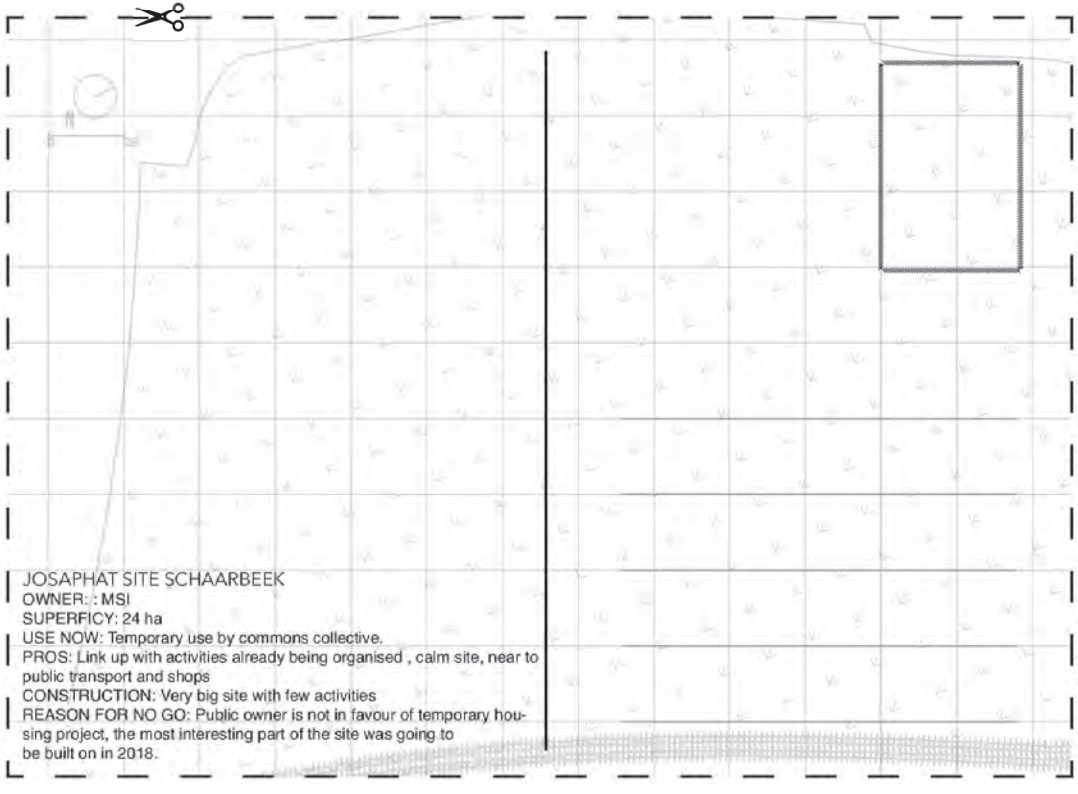
BIZETSITE ANDERLECHT
OWNER: Gewestelijke grondregie
SUPERFICY: 1002 m²
USE NOW: parking space for a nearby small business
PROS: part is concrete flooring, next to public transport, possibility to stay a long due to the metro running under the terrain and therefore the terrain is not suitable for building with foundations.
CONSTRUCTION: next to a busy road but you can use the collective space as a barrier between the road and the houses.
REASON FOR NO GO: De GGR had appointed a contractor forthe site

PERMANENT STATE OF WAITING



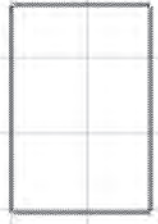
DANTESTRAAT ANDERLECHT
OWNER: Private
SUPERFICY: 22 334 m²
USE NOW: empty space, sometimes used as a thoroughfare byRomas.
PROS: concrete floor, link with activities at City Gate IICONSTRUC-
TION: not so far from civilization but seems far, industrial environment, not so cozy to return home late at night
REASON FOR NO GO: private owner has appointed a contractor for the project.

PERMANENT STATE OF WAITING



JOSAPHAT SITE SCHAARBEEK
OWNER: : MSI
SUPERFICY: 24 ha
USE NOW: Temporary use by commons collective.
PROS: Link up with activities already being organised , calm site, near to public transport and shops
CONSTRUCTION: Very big site with few activities
REASON FOR NO GO: Public owner is not in favour of temporary housing project, the most interesting part of the site was going to be built on in 2018.

PERMANENT STATE OF WAITING



ZENOBE DE GRAMMELAAN SCHAARBEEK
OWNER: Private to be bought by City Dev
SUPERFICY: 3024 m²
USE NOW: Empty, for rent.
PROS: A terrain and a building, next tp public transport, shops, park, concrete surface.
CONSTRUCTION: The deadline for buying the site was always pushed back.
REASON FOR NO GO: Pushback of the date for buying the site. Now the site is up for rent by Trevi , a real estate office.

PERMANENT STATE OF WAITING

FINSTRAAT MOLENBEEK
OWNER : Private
SUPERFICY: 438 m²
USE NOW : Empty, parking space.
PROS: next to public transport, to shops, owner was open to temporary use in general.
CONS : Small terrain
REASON FOR A NO GO : The municipality didn't want another social project in that neighboorhoud because there was a lot of social housing there

Land management in Brussels
Luc Lampaert

Cities and municipalities that have a long-term vision on housing and are determined to see it implemented have a powerful tool in hand if they own the land since landlords enjoy property rights. Property rights encompass the right of enjoyment, the right of use and the right of disposal.

As regards public lands, the law of 1824 concerning the right of building and still in use today, is particularly interesting.

The law stipulates that the owner of the land is not automatically considered to be owning the building or transformed building on the site.

The right of building allows the beneficiary to erect a building on someone else's plot of land and use it.

Being the owner of a plot of land whilst granting others the right to build on it enables cities and municipalities to keep an eye on what is built on public ground. Even more important is the fact that they can keep an eye on what is not being built. On top of their property rights, they can give an enforceable character to certain criteria and thus guard the implementation of their vision on housing.

Public lands belong to society and society should benefit from their use. However logical this may sound; land has become for decades a mere product. The sale of public land generates an income that can be used on other public missions. Unfortunately, what we see in most cities and municipalities is a stereotyped offer of standard two room flats that are being built in order to meet the needs of a very select kind of public.

Land developers are focusing on making a profit on projects with added value for local communities.

At a time when communities discover how important local needs are, cooperatives gain momentum. In various sectors citizen driven initiatives are put in place whether or not they are supported by local authorities.

The emergence of the cooperative movement is not new and has lost none of its core value which is to respond to collective needs whilst working together. As such the cooperative is a legal structure that provides an answer to the challenges municipalities and cities are being faced with in their housing policies.

In granting land to cooperatives, cities and municipalities retain ownership and contribute positively to a society where one can live without financial costs being attached to it. The right of building allows for a broader focus on the target public for which buildings are being built, whereas urban planning services ensure the quality of the process. Although some more convincing will be needed, the process allows cities and municipalities to contribute to a sustainable future.

3.3 MODE 2 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN DESIGN EDUCATION

Burak Pak, Yves Schoonjans, Aurelie De Smet

(this part has been adapted from Pak et al., 2019)

The design studio is the heart of architecture and urban design education. It is a place for 'reflection-in-action' through which students learn experientially by designing their own projects. Yet, this reflectivity is mostly limited to the individual interactions in a traditional studio setting: design studio in this limited form is predominantly mono-disciplinary, predominantly teacher and student-centred. In this context, rethinking design studio as a medium for learning critical spatial practice required the use of particular strategies and methods.

By rethinking design learning in the Solidary Mobile Housing Design Studio (SMH DS) and the elective courses we intended to move away from traditional models of pedagogical authority and sought to develop a conceptual practice determined by the networked relationships of coordinating agents. The studio was based on a live project. In contrast with academic design studios, live projects take place in a concrete setting, with concrete societal

issues. Our ambition with the SMH DS and electives was not only to interact with one local stakeholder but to search and interact in the 'complexity of simultaneously many different actors', namely all the participants of the SMH Living Lab. We motivated master students in architecture to interact and operate with others within and out of the faculty to exchange knowledge in practice by establishing an open system of interconnected people and things. The studio was not isolated but interacted with research and building electives, creating not only knowledge interaction over the boundaries of courses, but also of students. As such, the SMH DS brought the various stakeholders together through a live project and resulted in the co-creation of a learning space with all the actors, including the people in precarious housing conditions.

Empowered through participation, co-creation and inclusion of local stakeholders, live projects embody complexity and multi-layeredness. Emerging out of daily life, live projects are not protected by well-defined boundaries but make connections to a multiplicity of design issues in a collaborative and interdisciplinary way. At the same time, they possess a determinate and indeterminate framework motivating the students but also the teachers to come out of their comfort zone, switch off the 'autopilot' and critically rethink their role, knowledge, and actions. This 'estrangement' is, of course, interesting because the discipline is changing and shifting all the time, expanding to other fields and areas. Through this live project, we aimed to push this frontier towards the social and critical spatial design.

In order to organize the co-creation studio and electives to foster collective intelligence, we tried out different approaches for organizing and stimulating knowledge exchange and knowledge production between the participants, like participatory study and site visits, participatory review & evaluation sessions and participatory hands-on workshops (De Smet et al. 2018a & b). The grouping of the participants and the interaction modes varied in each case. These methods enabled students to see the different design aspects from the eyes of the inhabitants and vice versa.

The importance of estrangement in architectural education often seems to be ignored or forgotten in design learning. Of course, one can find rock-hard arguments to create a solid frame for the students, to realize a well-thought-out studio environment and sound structured lectures as well as comprehensive-learning platforms and clear communication-tools. One can also find solid pedagogical arguments to create a comfortable study environment optimized for learning and scientific pedagogic articles on how alienation can weaken learning environments, thereby diminishing educational efficiency. However, it seems that in the journey to becoming a 'good' architect, urbanist or designer, the aspect of estrangement may be crucial.

Encouraging students to move out of their comfort zone informs and is the essence of creativity. Furthermore, it can help teachers and students to envisage unforeseen possibilities. One could argue that all students and staff should, on a regular basis, move to another context, another school, another real-life project, another country in order to rethink the limitations of their own world view and known strategies. One advantage of this strategy would be to prepare them adequately for a complex future that 'comes too fast and in the wrong order', to quote Alvin Toffler.

The aspect of alienation or estrangement is not only an educational strategy to trigger creativity, it is at the same time in itself an 'essential part of new daily architectural practice'. Societal, political and cultural differences, tensions and contrasts are part of today's everyday life and therefore of increasing influence in contemporary discourses in Architecture, Design and Urbanism. This means that new challenges for architecture and urbanism appear because the political and socio-cultural debate is becoming a protagonist of design, architectural and urban discourses, demanding a more critical attitude of all actors involved. Related to this increasing complexity in the environment we inhabit, new answers are needed to respond to the above challenges and future possibilities. Contrary to past planning and design models, alternative approaches emerge in the field of Architecture, Design and Urbanism.

Including future inhabitants and NPO's in architectural education at the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven helped to train students to become competent professionals. The contact with this specific target group and the NPO's guiding and supporting them made future architects aware of their social role. For the inhabitants and NPO's, it is empowering to be able to contribute to the formation of these young people.

In summary, throughout the SMH co-design process, all the involved actors walked new paths and thus expanded their knowledge and experience. Breaking free from prevailing modes of urban-architectural design and the project established a working practice exploiting the productive encounters between different disciplines. This allowed all the co-creators to engage in a reflective learning experience.

Each of us has developed new emerging alliances, defined new partnerships, focused on new ways of trans-disciplinary thinking and set up new kinds of joint professional or academic collaborations. As a result of this, stereotyped interventions based on unilateral problem-solving and blueprint thinking were avoided. Through interdisciplinary network practice, in the SMH project, we investigated how we as practitioners can learn from different disciplines and reformulate this into a new way of operating. While being about a network, our critical spatial practice represents itself as a networked practice in itself. The 'crossbench practitioner' Miessen (2017) describes as an 'outsider and a participator who is not limited by existing protocols, and who enters the arena with creative intellect and the will to generate change'. Crucial to this was the understanding that all partners are equal, that they all can do valuable contributions to the learning process.

Pak, B., De Smet, A., Schoonjans, Y. (2019). Solidary Mobile Housing Live Project. In: Boie, G., Boutsen, D; Fens, R., De Maeyer, G., Houttekier, B., Schamelhout, J (Eds). WTC Tower Teachings, reports from one and a half years of nomadic architecture education in Brussels. KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture; Brussels, pp. 122 - 129

ABOUT THE ROLE OF BC ARCHITECTS IN THE PROJECT

(this part is based on a conversation between Aurelie De Smet and Ken De Cooman and Bregt Hoppenbrouwers from BC architects)

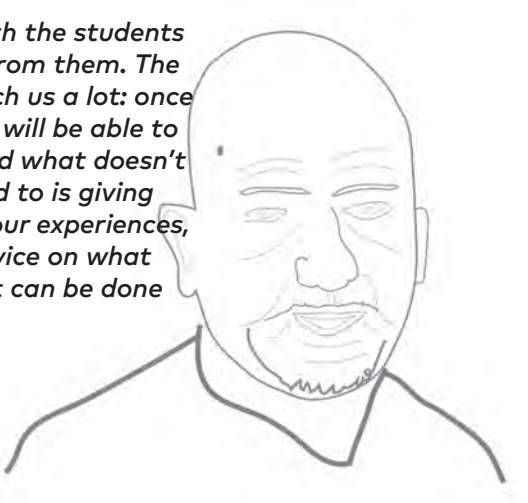
In the context of the buildability of the final design, we decided it was important that the students would be co-supervised by someone with expertise in the context of innovative concepts (like 'urban mining', 'bioclimatic building' and 'buildings as material banks') and with extensive practical experience. In addition, engaging a professional architectural firm was also necessary for the building permit application and in the context of professional liability. For these reasons, BC architects, a young Brussels architectural firm, was invited to join the SMH team at the start of the co-design process.

Ken De Cooman explains how he wore three different 'hats' throughout the project. When wearing his 'hat of the architect' he was taking up his more traditional role, that of the professional working on an architectural project for a client. When wearing his 'hat of the teacher', he stepped out of his daily practice, to guide and inspire others through architectural design studios and electives. This position also allowed him to get inspired back by their ideas and explorations. When wearing his 'hat of the researcher', he joined the SMH co-creative research and experimentation process to develop the SMH Prototype and Model together with the other participants.

Looking back, Ken sees how BC architects' role evolved throughout the project. To him, the most interesting position was when he was wearing the three 'hats' at the same time (during the preliminary design that took place in the context of the Solidary Mobile Housing Design Studio, organized at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture). This was a very interesting position, as it allowed to exchange a lot with the other participants and to participate fully in the research and innovation process. Unfortunately, BC's role was more limited towards the end, as the project budget did not allow otherwise.

Overall, Ken says, participation in this project was an interesting and instructive experience for the firm. The project fits within the themes BC architects are working on anyways (like circular, modular, demountable, compact and energy-efficient building ...), but it was more radical as these themes were being pushed to their limits. The firm also acquired new knowledge through the project, mainly on the aspect of 'mobile building', new to them was, e.g. how to design while taking 'weight' into consideration.

Marc: *"I found the exchanges with the students very interesting; I learned a lot from them. The next phase will probably also teach us a lot: once we start living in our houses, we will be able to indicate very well what works and what doesn't work. What I also look forward to is giving feedback to new projects. From our experiences, we will be able to give real advice on what we should do the same or what can be done differently. "*



KU Leuven Student: *"This design studio changed the way I think about the future. It made me reflect on my future role as a designer and even on my role in life in general."*

Jeremy: *"Also discovering one's own capacity to think technically and practically was interesting. I notice that architects, for example, often come up with good ideas, but that it is also good that someone with more technical insight then asks: how do you want to apply that in practice? And that is how everyone grows closer to one another and comes up with new insights."*

Benoit: *"I don't feel that I have learned much from working with other partners. Rather, I have the feeling that I have contributed a lot myself. Of course, you see that other people sometimes do things differently, but that's not new to me: I have had to function in many different situations in my life."*

KU Leuven Student: *"We give a voice to the future inhabitants. It is nice to talk to them and realise how important this issue is. We are giving back rights to the future inhabitants"*

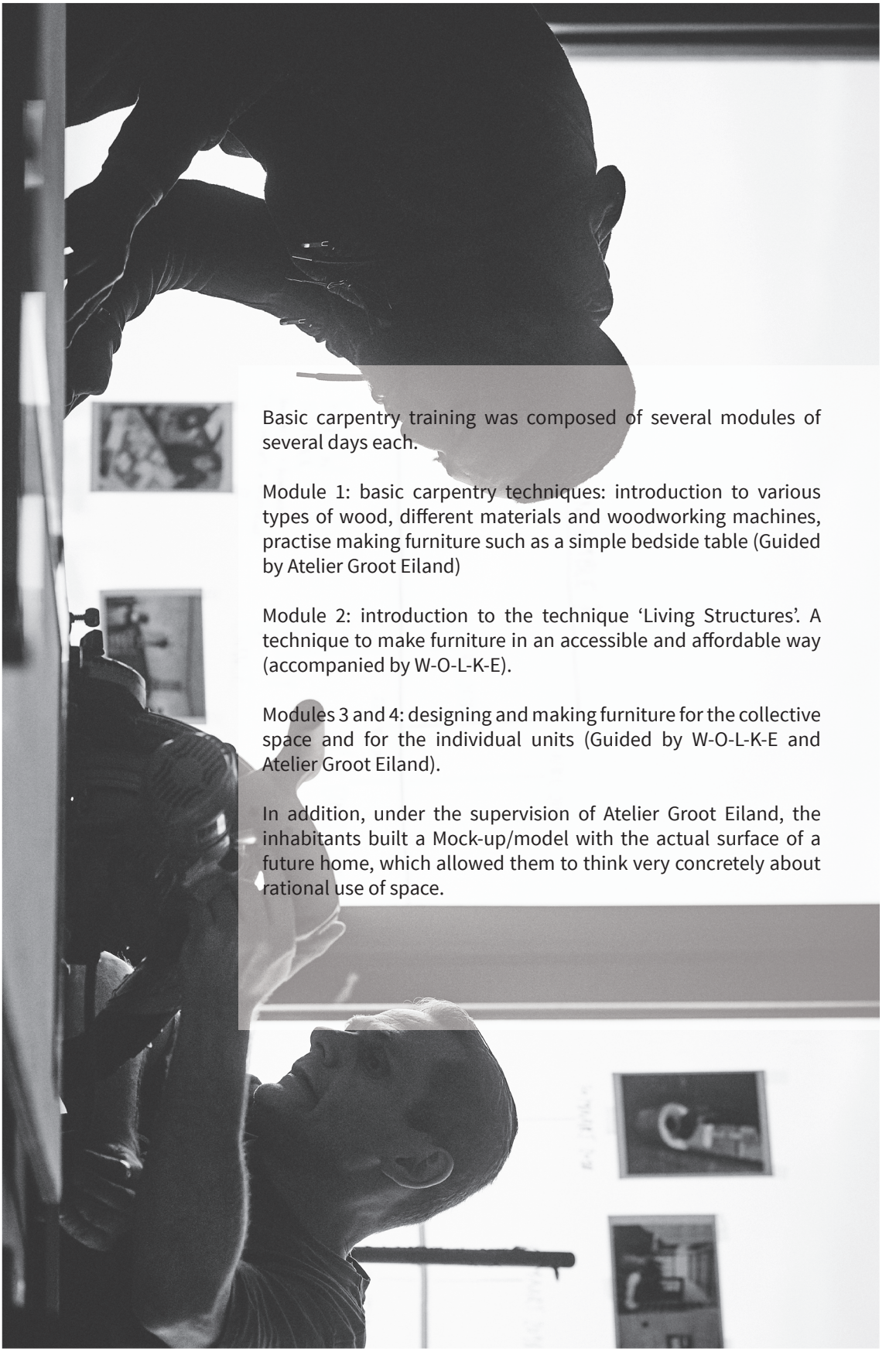
Jeremy: *"The collaboration with different organisations has given me many new insights. Also, with the large student group, I was able to learn a lot. The fact that there were different nationalities in the student group brought in new ideas (e.g. from people who are used to live in a different climate), which also allowed us to think more broadly about certain applications."*

3.4 SKILL BUILDING

Tineke Van Heesvelde

During a co-creation process, all those involved can learn from one another. This is not only about getting to know each other's terminology, but mainly about learning in cooperating. This learning environment applies to everyone. The SMH inhabitants profited from a lot of learning opportunities in the project, both individually and collectively. In this article we focus on group learning opportunities. Many different approaches were used, including hands-on "by accident" type of learning.

In the SMH project, formally, a basic training in carpentry was organised for all participants. This enabled all SMH inhabitants to take part in the building process of their own home. They acquired new soft skills such as the ability to work in a team, to communicate, to share different tasks, to deal with paperwork, to plan or to listen to one another. But a huge amount was also learned "off the cuff" as shown in these pictures:



Basic carpentry training was composed of several modules of several days each.

Module 1: basic carpentry techniques: introduction to various types of wood, different materials and woodworking machines, practise making furniture such as a simple bedside table (Guided by Atelier Groot Eiland)

Module 2: introduction to the technique ‘Living Structures’. A technique to make furniture in an accessible and affordable way (accompanied by W-O-L-K-E).

Modules 3 and 4: designing and making furniture for the collective space and for the individual units (Guided by W-O-L-K-E and Atelier Groot Eiland).

In addition, under the supervision of Atelier Groot Eiland, the inhabitants built a Mock-up/model with the actual surface of a future home, which allowed them to think very concretely about rational use of space.

Inhabitants went on an “urban safari” to see vacant plots of land as options for the project. There were also trips to other projects (Tiny House Belgium, Modül...).

DELHAIZE
A 500 M

In this context, students put forward proposals or ideas that would then be analysed in order for them to respond to the needs and expectations of the SMH inhabitants.

As an important part of the SMH project, discussions about sites and occupation of sites in the city, size of residential units and construction standards and activities such as visit to the workshop of Casablanco took place.

Everyday
Milk

SPAX
4.5x80

Part of the collective space was built in a workshop in the autumn of 2019. Ivo Vrouwe, a researcher at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture who is experienced with supervising self-construction projects, was recruited to that end. Together with Burak Pak and Aurelie De Smet, he designed the plans in consultation with the SMH inhabitants and the other SMH partners, launched the process with the group, and provided a construction manual as well as coaching for one of the group members (a carpenter), to guide the group through the construction.

Since the SMH inhabitants were able to move to a temporary occupation in Anderlecht in the spring of 2019, they have de facto already been living together. The rather theoretical exercises on communication and living together that were used until then suddenly became very concrete. In living together, tensions arise in a natural way that must be defused. The theoretical exercises often provide a basis for this, which is why relaxing activities in a group are so crucial.

In addition, the SMH inhabitants prepare themselves for their future living situation. To this end, the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture developed, together with Samenlevingsopbouw, a toolbox that makes it possible to think about the socio-spatial appropriation.
Talents and ambitions inside the group form the basis of our work: what do they want to do for themselves, for the group and for the neighbourhood in which they will eventually live? What does this look like concretely: people think about hierarchy in groups, about different tasks and about division of tasks.

LOGEMENT
SOLIDAIRE
& MOBILE

Living in a new neighbourhood entails preparation time: getting to know the neighbourhood and its facilities, contracting the residents, communicating with the neigbourhood...

Jeremy: *"What I really like to see is that the group really gets better as a result of these collaborative moments, that we become more attuned to each other. Everyone knows a little bit about the strengths of the others, which also makes us more independent as a group."*

Jeremy: *"Of course, I also became an instructor at Atelier Groot Eiland during the SMH period. That also taught me a lot, especially about sharing technical insight. I was educated to be a carpenter and not an instructor, but I was able to establish that transferring technical knowledge is something that suits me very well."*

Omar: *"The project has allowed me to learn a number of things. Especially from the carpentry training I learned a lot. For example, I can now assemble a chair, which I would never have tried before."*

3.5 CO-BUILDING THE SMH PROTOTYPE

Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak, Ken De Cooman, Tineke Van Heesvelde

As explained in chapter 0.5, the SMH building system - consisting of modular building elements - is allowing the users to design and redesign their home and community according to their own wishes and needs and to the specific characteristics of the site and its immediate surroundings. The SMH/M is moreover also based on partial self-construction: through skill building and the provision of adapted tools and methods (like a construction manual and a modular architectural scale model) the inhabitants will be enabled to - at least partially - also mount, demount and remount the building elements themselves.

However, before we could get started with this, the modular building elements first needed to be produced and thus a contractor needed to be appointed and a building permit needed to be obtained for the realization of the SMH Prototype on the site in Jette.

With respect to the building permit, after an extended exploration of the type, format and requirements of a permit suitable for this type of housing, we ended up receiving the permission (both from the municipality of Jette and the BCR) to make use of a special arrangement included in the Regional Town Planning Regulations. As part of a scientific project, the houses and collective space(s) could, in this phase, be built without a permit. This special arrangement is valid for a maximum of 5 years and does not exempt us from the applicable rules and regulations (as it can only be applied for projects that are compliant to those). However, it currently does give us some room for experimentation and most of all, it sped up the process. Also, since the design indeed fits the current rules and regulations (or qualifies for an exception in certain areas), we are convinced that, in the future, getting a building permit for the project will not be a problem.

With respect to finding a contractor, since Samenlevingsopbouw Brussels (which is the official commissioner) is financed for more than half by government grants, we were subject to the law on public procurement. However, because of the experimental nature of this project, it was very important to find a balance between complying with this legislation and keeping the tender and construction procedures as workable and flexible as possible. Through a negotiation procedure, we thus searched for a contractor open to experimentation and participation in the construction process. In the end the construction of the SMH houses was assigned to Casablanco, a Brussels social entrepreneur, who is currently realizing the project within the framework of a pedagogical construction project and the construction of the bathrooms and kitchenettes was assigned to Atelier Groot Eiland.

Currently we are noticing that the construction of the Prototype is in itself also an 'action research cycle', in which Casablanco and BC architects are working on defining, planning, testing, evaluating and refining the architectural design. First of all, the design was thought out low-tech and anticipated as much as possible. Then, a first module was made and evaluated. Various details were commemorated and redesigned. The first modules therefore serve as a first building prototype. This is reflected in the commitment of Casablanco, which gives a fixed labor price with prototyping included, and a billing of all materials. However, the entire project is also a usage prototype, in which it will be evaluated how the modules hook up to each other, how they can be dismantled during transport, and how they can be rebuilt. Finally, after the completion of the Prototype, also the use and appropriation of the modules will be monitored and evaluated.

What was(were) your reason(s) for agreeing to participate in this project?

Pieter: Firstly, because the project focusses on innovation. At Casa Blanco we have a tradition of focusing on innovative techniques. Whether that is in terms of ecological construction or energy efficiency. We want to make sure that the people we train are acquainted with the latest building techniques. And when I saw the design, I had the impression that we can really do something with this. We do not always get the opportunity to realize such a thing.

Secondly, because the project certainly has an added social value. This is another focus of Casa Blanco. I do admit that in the beginning, as a diehard militant for social housing, I did ask myself political questions about the concept… what did convince me that it is a design that is respectful of the residents. That it is not the umpteenth architectural wet dream where the quality of the housing actually comes second.

And finally, in terms of technology, the use of natural materials and the aim to build something that is sustainable but also as in "not too many gadgets", that has also convinced me.

Did the co-creative approach and the a-typical design impact your way of working?

Pieter: In this case we are dealing with a building process that keeps you sharp on a weekly basis. Each time we are confronted with the fact that "it is not as simple as it seems". It looks like serial work, but it requires continuous insight to see how things can be done better and faster. This requires coordination of the team leader and the workers, who have to think along on "how to make things work". For other projects that is less the case, you already know in advance where you will start, and you usually know where you will end. The SMH process requires insight and adaptability from the workers, which is certainly interesting, especially for their own learning process.

Do you have the feeling that you have enough time to experiment?

Pieter: Yes. We have taken the time and got the time. The first 3 months were certainly not easy. Buildup, dismantle, order new materials, find better materials...

What do you remember the most from the project (positive and/ or negative)?

Pieter: In all honesty, what I remember the most are the Friday afternoons, then our teams don't work. I was making prototypes on my own, in order to make it clearer to our people the following week, that is actually the intention, that stays with me the most. ...
In the beginning, it was clear to the architects what the end result would be, but how they would get there and with which materials was not so clear yet... That was a bit underestimated. In the beginning the SMH project partners did not yet know who was going to build their design, that is the logic of a building process, with public tendering and so on… but in this case you should actually know that from the beginning. (And that partner should also be involved from the start and also contribute to the development throughout the entire process.)

About the future of the project: according to you is it an exception or can it be integrated on the long-term?

Pieter: I don't think it's a structural solution to the housing crisis, but that is a personal political idea. I think a lot will depend on how the project and it's environment will be perceived and used, once it is realized. Will it indeed be perceived as qualitative by the residents? If I look at the materials used, I think, why not? In that sense it can indeed provide an answer to a housing problem. But it all remains a bit political,… setting up an innovation hub within the regional housing agency is positive, but they also have to build more! In that sense it is good that we show that it is possible, that it can be improved. It's about comfortable living.
What certainly inspired me is the idea of prefabrication. In Brussels we are a little behind on that.

Would you do it again?

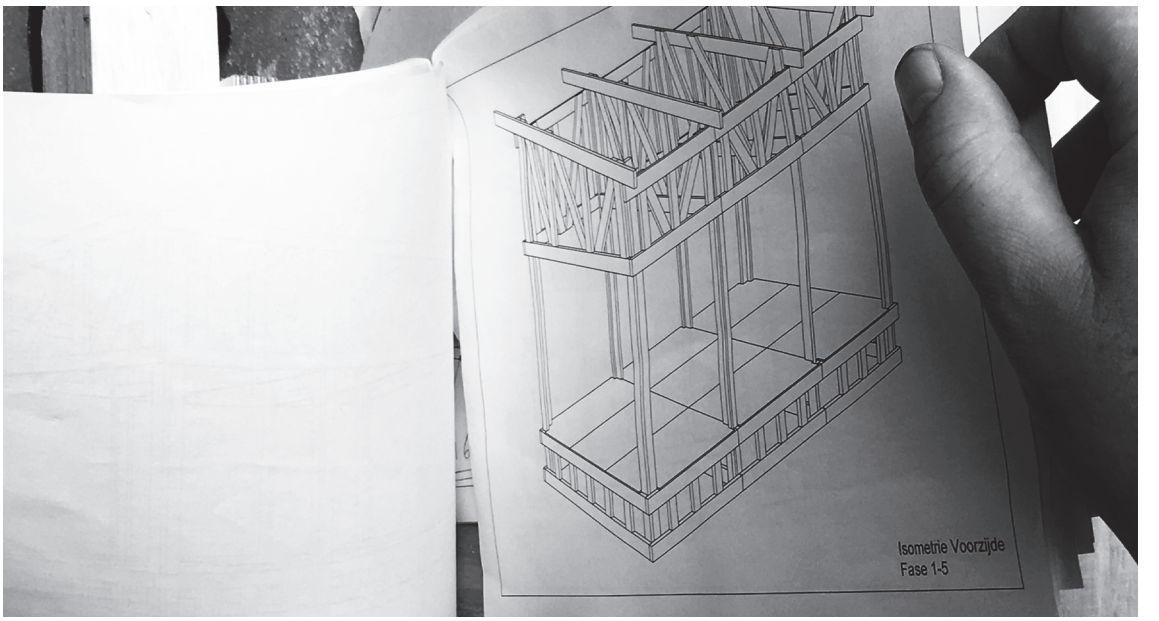
Pieter: Yes.

And if we decide to build more SMH's would you still build them?

Pieter: Hell yes.

The realization of the collective space was not part of the co-create funding. As a result, the original design turned out to be too expensive. In consultation with the partners and residents, it was decided to redesign the collective space as combination of a ‘light collective space’, an open, multifunctional area, similar to a winter garden, and two modules, identical to the ones that are forming the structural units of the housing. One of these modules will contain a collective kitchen and the other one will contain a wood workshop.

For the design of the ‘light collective space’ a new co-design cycle was developed in collaboration with Aurelie and Burak and Ivo Vrouwe of the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture. As a result of this process a modular and demountable wood and polycarbonate structure was designed and immediately thereafter also built by the inhabitants themselves, in their workshop in Anderlecht. Ivo provided a step-by step construction manual, supervised the start of the construction and gave a ‘train the trainer’ coaching to one of the future inhabitants (a carpenter). Afterwards, that person further supervised the rest of the collective space construction process, together with SOB. The ‘light collective space’ is currently waiting to be installed on the terrain in Jette. This co-building process was the first hands-on co-creation activity with the inhabitants in the framework of the building process.



Jeremy: *"In the beginning, when I was asked to take on the role of instructor for the co-building of the light collective space, I found it a bit ambiguous. The co-habitants are actually my mates, and I thought they would look at me differently if suddenly I got more responsibility or had to organise the work. But that wasn't too bad. I thought it was good that a distinction was made between: now Jeremy is part of the group, and now he is here as an instructor of Atelier Groot Eiland. In the end, I found that a very pleasant experience. I was given the responsibility to give the people in the group work according to their abilities. Some of them I knew they also had carpentry experience, others I still had to feel what they already could do and how everyone could participate and make themselves useful. That's just something that suits me. I'm a leader anyway, whether I get that role or not..."*
"Ivo Vrouwe has consulted closely with the inhabitants for the design and for the elaboration of the plans, and also discussed the approach and plans with me. That was okay, but it could have been a bit more. It all had to go rather quickly. I did get the feeling I had to jump. I wanted to ask a lot of questions. It was pretty intense. Fortunately, I could rely on my own experience as an instructor at Atelier Groot Eiland to divide tasks and pass on responsibility."

Ivo Vrouwe: "With a background in making, engineering, and design, I am familiar with most stages of the architectural design process. However, in this project, additional challenges were introduced. Halfway the project, I was asked to design a social space where groups could gather. In addition, I was provided with an abstract description of the construction workshop, and a variety of descriptions of the construction competency of the team builders. In the workshop there was an electrical saw, hand tools, and some electrical drills, and in the building team, some of the builders were trained, and others only to a limited extent. As a result, without a strong sense of the team's competency, it is often easy to overshoot. When a knowledge- or skill-gap is larger than anticipated, worries overtake a sense of control. Therefore, for this project, I aimed at a design, that could be understood and built, using a limited skill set."

Ivo Vrouwe: *"The Solidary Mobile Housing project succeeds in joining hands and heads from all layers of the design and building process. Nevertheless, by joining designers, makers, and users in one group, and sometimes even a single person, opportunities and challenges are introduced. In this reflection, I will briefly touch upon some of my experiences throughout the process of this project.*

With the academization of modern architecture schools and practices, hand and head are often increasingly divided. Traditionally, the architect makes designs, and the builder builds. With this division, both parties usually communicate through drawings and digital files, and meet on site on a limited occasion. Through co-design, and even more through co-making, architects get involved in the act of making, and users in the act of building and design. As a result, users have to be introduced to design decisions and construction practices which normally take years to master, and architects are introduced to the dynamics of building, construction, and on-site problem solving that often feels uncomfortable and even unfamiliar.

I approached this process from the viewpoint of designer-maker. I was involved in construction during two workshop days. The first was in the workshop, the second on-site.

In the workshop, the meeting started with a design briefing, which was challenged by a language barrier. My competency in speaking French is limited, and therefore, instructions were made through drawings and diagrams. The total building process was divided in about twenty stages, with each stage adding to the final construction. Although communication through drawings circumvents written language to a great extent, it requires builders to read something from a flat sheet of paper and translate this into a spatial construction. This process requires practice but did not pose unforeseen challenges during this process that I am aware of. As a result, the team was able to work on the construction independently, with each team member acquiring a role that fitted their building competencies.

The on-site workshop was planned well into the construction process. During this workshop, complexity of building tasks improved gradually, and a large part of the team participated in the build. With each person, doing what fits best, the construction progressed steadily.As a result, by joining hands and heads, with limited instruction, this team showed competent in the construction of a life-size building, using a limited number of tools and training."

MAKE YOUR OWN MODEL

Make your own paper model, organize and re-organize your own site inspired by waiting sites!

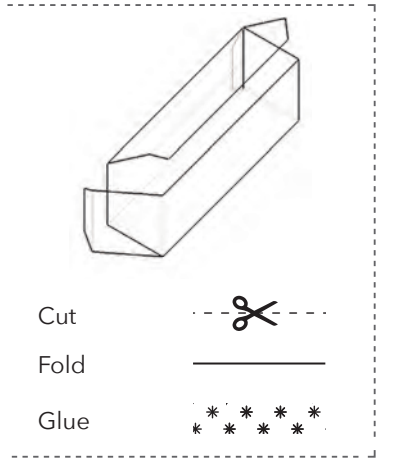
UNITS_

Use the following pages to create living and wet units.
You just have to cut and fold them.

The project consists of:

_12 units - the living space

_4 wet units - technical parts - 1 for 2 house

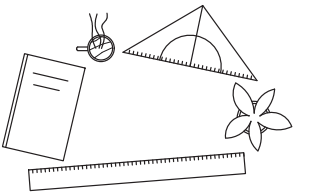


SITES_

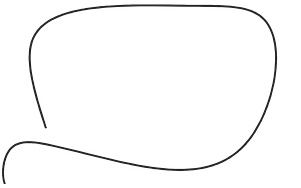
Create site with random things around you.

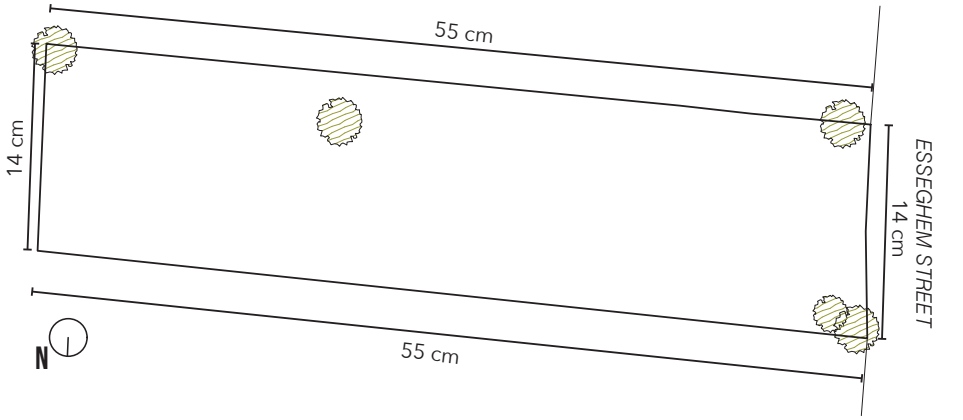
Desk objects or a string.

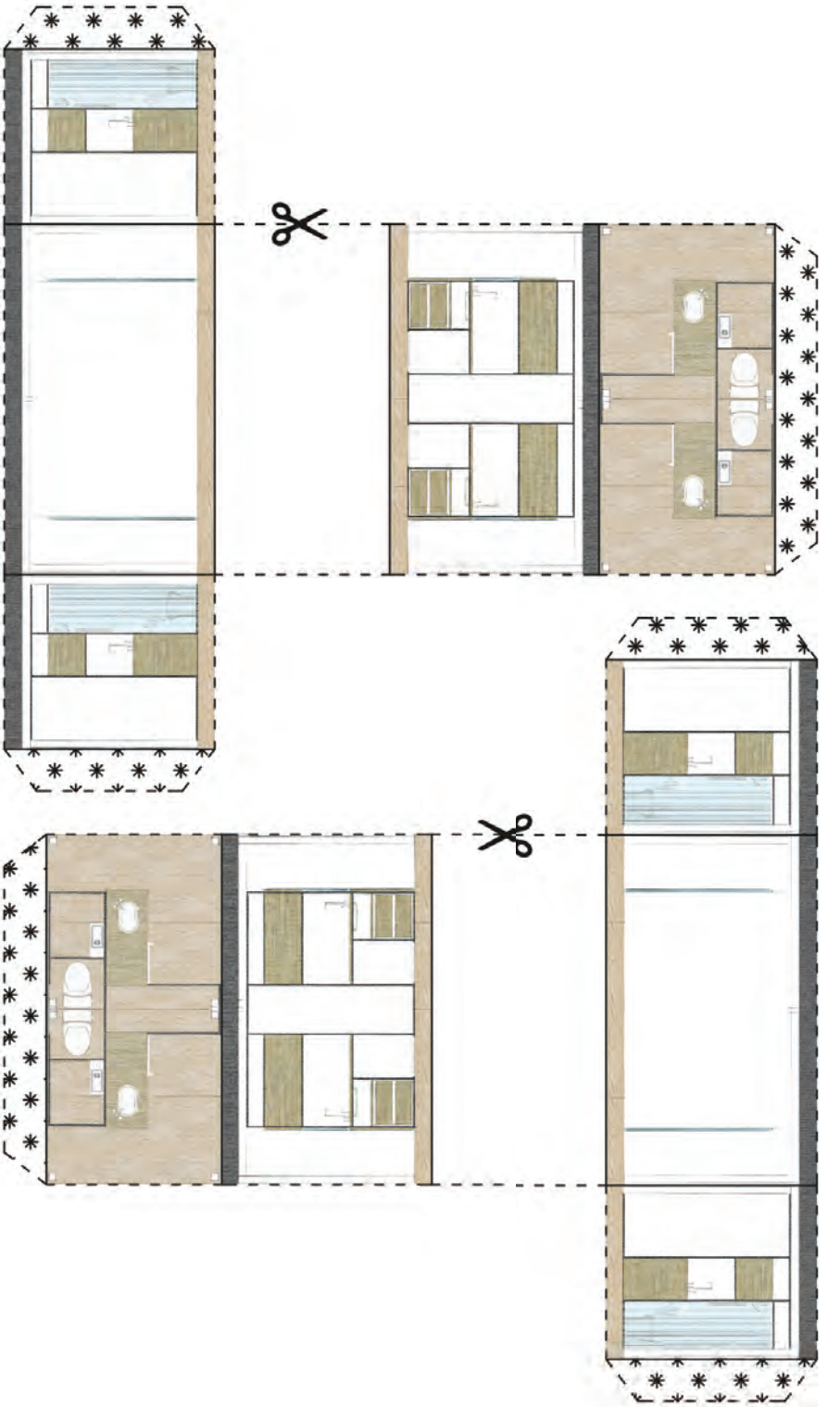
Imagine different, size, shape, surroundings...



Tips
- The model scale is 1/100
- Use the “permanent state of waiting” postcards
- For example, the Esseghem site on scale:







REFLECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

4.1 REFLECTIONS BY STUDENTS

Reflections by students from the SMH Design Studio

The aim of the SMH Design Studio (DS) was the preliminary design of the SMH housing units and collective space(s). 17 students of the 1st International Master of Architecture Program at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture participated in this course, which was co-taught by Burak Pak, Aurelie De Smet, Yves Schoonjans and Ken De Cooman. In the context of the SMH DS, the students first worked in groups of three on a collective analysis and vision for one of the six different hypothetical sites selected for the studio. Next, they all developed an individual design proposition for one of these sites. The SMH Design Studio thus resulted in 17 different project proposals (3 per site). During the course, different methods and techniques for co-design and participatory feedback were employed, with the aim of involving all the project partners (including the future inhabitants).

"We give a voice to the future inhabitants. It is nice to talk to them and realise how important this issue is. We are giving back rights to the future inhabitants"

"We talked to so many parties that are involved in this project and also students from all over the world. It's interesting to see all the different perspectives."

"I learned how to update my designs with different feedbacks. And how to think in detail."

“What I learned is that architecture is more temporary than you think it is, but that doesn’t mean it’s not going to stay. It is the opposite. I believe that even in these temporary uses something more stable can happen.”

“Every party has a different point of view and everyone finds other things important. What we want is not necessarily the same as what others want. It is important to share this, to talk about it.”

“This design studio changed the way I think about the future. It made me reflect on my future role as a designer and even on my role in life in general.”

Julie Charlot: *(Int. Master in Architecture at KU Leuven graduate)*
"In addition to the numerous positive results of the SMH project, the effect on the students who followed the SMH Design Studio is significant.

As the result of actually working in collaboration with the future inhabitants and at the same time with the NPO's, I learned more than I thought possible. It was, for me, a unique studio, totally different than what I was familiar with. It was my first work experience with real life.

This realistic project was challenging and motivating. Because of it, I changed my mind about the architectural profession. For the first time I understood the meaning behind the phrase the "shifting role of architects". I asked myself important questions. How can we work outside the office? How diverse can our role be? But most importantly, how extensively do we need to work with all the participants in a project. Not just by building social housing but by going into the field, understanding and sharing with people and working with them instead of for them. Empowering them to be part of the project from the beginning and allowing them to improve it with their ideas and points of view needs to become our goal. We all come to a situation with different backgrounds and ideas and all of these need to be understood and addressed.

At the beginning of the studio, we all had a specific idea of what this project should be. After a little chat with the future inhabitants and NPO's we quickly understood that those ideas came from our own perspectives but not from the actual reality.

Communication was crucial in this project but not always easy. We had to find a way to know what they wanted and what they needed, even if they did not always know it themselves. At the same time, the project had to be mobile and affordable. There were a lot of restrictions for us as students.
For me, however, this was only the first part of the journey. Almost one year later (by then I had already graduated) in collaboration with Rosie Romero, Phd Student and Samenlevingsopbouw, we organized a workshop to help the future inhabitants prepare to live in the project. The goal was answering questions like how they will organize themselves for daily activities such as cleaning, cooking, etc. but also how they would organize events, sport time, gardening, etc.

As architects, we design space and forget sometimes to imagine how people will actually live in the project. This question is critical when we start a new kind of housing project for people who have not lived in their own place for a long time. We have to do more than think about it, we have to plan it, with them. It was a completely new task for us. We understood how difficult it was for them to take responsibility and see themselves in the future.

During our studies we learn how to design a space, how to construct a stable building and many others things. But, unfortunately, we rarely tackle the reality and the difficult role of being a social architect, someone who cares for the future inhabitants, works with them in a participatory process and finds solutions, again and again, to face the economic reality.

I was personally challenged by this project. I'm convinced we need to search for another model, a new model. We need to assure that architectural services are affordable as the ones who really need us, cannot afford us today."

Aurelie De Smet

The aim of the elective, organized by the Altering Practices for Urban Inclusion (Alt_Shift*) Research Group of the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture, was to explore alternatives to extend the concept of practice towards critical spatial research, beyond the limitations of isolated top-down and neo-liberal practices. Alt_shift* applies unique participatory design and co-creation methods and tools to learn from underrepresented and overlooked communities and empower them to get involved in design, through design. The focus of the course was on altering practices (Petrescu, 2007) which question and transform the socio-political conditions of the spaces into which they intervene and test the boundaries and procedures of their own disciplines. Through case studies, field observations and creative interventions, the students gained a better understanding of these practices and made critical reflections on these via various media.

The course developed along two parallel, interactive tracks, constantly feeding each other. In track 1 'Case Study of Affordable Housing Projects' the students studied other temporary / affordable / mobile housing projects, with the aim of understanding: (1) the context (aims, focus, target group, initiators …), (2) the socio-spatial concept, (3) level of solidarity,

(4) the neighbourhood integration, (5) the process (empowerment in the design before use) and (6) the protocols and governance (empowerment in the design in use) of those.

In track 2 'Learning from the Solidary Mobile Housing Project' they worked on two on-site interventions, aimed at starting-up / fostering the neighbourhood integration of the SMH project in the surrounding neighbourhood and vice-versa. In this context they worked on realizing a series of boxes that can be used as tables and chairs, planters, building elements for a bar,… for the site, on upgrading the 'interfence' into an 'enterfence', on designing and building a small greenhouse, on installing a rail system for artworks and realizing a graffiti artwork, on designing and building a birdhouse and on developing an informative neighbourhood map for the future inhabitants and planning an explorative neighbourhood walk.

I am sure when people interact with our interventions, there will be various changes in them. People will add things from themselves and subtract some as well. I am already curious to see these that would help us to question our designs and more importantly to understand the users better! (student Alt_Shift ELB1, enterfence group, December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, neighbourhood map and walk group: *"I hope that the school will continue to give the opportunity to students to learn their future profession by actually going to the field and see how things are being done in reality."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, enterfence group: *"All in all, this course had many great experiences for me. Personally, involving the user in the process of design directly has always been my concern as an architect and to be able to learn from and contribute a small part to the practical project of Solidary mobile housing, which is not only involving the user but also empowering them in so many levels, was really valuable. Knowing the challenges that the project was going through and how it could be addressed and solved, formed a more pragmatic image of the project, which in my point of view, is what is missing in most architectural courses and is an important part of our future occupation we most know."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, enterfence group: *"Even all the changes we wanted to make didn't happened on the intervention day, we tried to get close to what we wanted to do. I think most important thing in this project is the collective activities and communication between different people and groups to contribute in the process to become a small part of this solidary project. What I really like about this intervention day is how gathered different groups who have been involved in this project somehow in one place to make a nice communication while eating a hot soup. From university professors and students, to NGOs and supporters, to homeless inhabitants and also different types of neighbors. And we as the [enter]fence team tried our best to provide this communal space for this gathering."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, greenhouse group: *"(...) to hear Jeremy, who was very kind enough to help us out in the building process, sharing his thoughts and ideas on how it could be better, describe how he planned to use the green house during the summers was an emotional one for me. It really made me feel that in this short span of time I had accomplished something tangible and intangible at the same time."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, greenhouse group: *"It was really thought provoking to see what aspects are important and in what ways, even by small interventions, we can make improvements for the settling and integration of these people into the community."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, greenhouse group: *"Another aspect I think was a good addition to the content were the case studies, which widened my perspectives on social housing and approaches that are being taken. I think an exploration of a specific case study is a good learning source about the important aspects of social housing and through the presentation and discussions it gave a good overview of different housing and their success in levels of empowerment and purpose."*
(December 2019)

student Alt_Shift ELB1, greenhouse group: *"The description of the Professors in the first lesson aroused my interests. The intention to work with and for people who are not staying on the sunny side of life is very important. That the KU Leuven through the research is part of this Project is nice. (...) After the last intervention on the site, it was also revealed what I already thought. Its not only a class as usual, we are actually a part of a political activism without knowing or agreeing. But I liked to see my classmates how they enjoyed being part of a "social" intervention and can take action with the meaning of doing something good."*
(December 2019)

4.2 REFLECTIONS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

INTRODUCTION

Aurelie De Smet & Geraldine Bruyneel

An essential part of the SMH/M is the creation/reinforcement of small-scale solidarity networks. The ambition is to be able to settle on sites that fit our collectively determined location criteria and that are offering the SMH inhabitants plenty of opportunities. But at the same time, the project also aims to bring something to the site and its environment.

To encourage neighbourhood integration, we started a matchmaking process. Our first steps in this are making a broad analysis of challenges, needs and opportunities in the neighbourhood and mapping out local organizations, initiatives by neighbourhood residents and local stories and histories. In this context, we are asking:

What does a neighbourhood need? What can our project bring to the neighbourhood and vice versa? What can we achieve together? What can we leave behind once we move to another site? Can SMH serve as a source of inspiration for final projects for and through the neighbourhood on the site?

In other words, we are looking for a ‘common ground’. Many conversations are held to exchange information, build up our understanding of the neighbourhood, find partners to collaborate with… In addition, we also developed systems and methods to reflect with the inhabitants about the talents they have and want to put to use for the neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood analysis and the search for ‘common ground’ are the first steps of a future collaboration between the project partners, the neighbourhood residents and the future inhabitants. As explained in section 1.5, the multifunctional area, kitchen module and wood workshop module of the collective space and the semi-public landscape of the terrain, will be used in this context as spaces for place-making and fostering of small-scale solidarity networks, while of course always taking into account and respecting the SMH inhabitants’ privacy.

It is important to realize that neighbourhood integration takes time, e.g. to communicate widely and openly about the project. For the SMH Prototype, we are doing this through interactive communication on the fence that encloses the construction site, which we themed the ‘interfence’. We also organize construction-, work- and festive moments on the site which are also opportunities to communicate with our surroundings.

To create a tighter bond between SMH and the neighbourhood, a continual presence on the terrain is needed. This will be easier to achieve when the future inhabitants will live on the terrain and the neighbourhood projects start.

Interestingly, the socio-spatial impact analysis showed that the future inhabitants of SMH not only committed themselves to the project out of personal interest, but also in order to influence society and policy, therefore we are exploring together with them how they can act as 'ambassadors' of the project, for the neighbourhood and wider.

To communicate with the neighbourhood, Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel also works with theatre makers Brecht Hermans and Sarah Bourgeois. Brecht uses radio and podcasts as means of initiating communication between the project and the surrounding neighbours. That is how Radio SOLID was born.

Radio SOLID

Brecht Hermans

I like to start from what's there, from the people out there, from the talents put together. I find creative solidarity stems from pooling those talents.

I don't think of a big plan in advance. I want to grow with the project and with the people who are part of the project. And I want to show that setting up meetings is not difficult. That you can do that very effectively with very simple means. Just start with yourself: who are you and what are your qualities.

My hope is that when I'm no longer in the Esseghem neighbourhood, the new and old residents will be able to continue to challenge each other, to meet each other based upon their own qualities.

Step 1: Introduction

Every new project starts with getting to know each other. Who are the stakeholders, what is it all about, what do we want to achieve? I met the people behind the Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel organization, the architects, employees and students of the KU Leuven. But for me, the most important in this was with meeting the future inhabitants. For me, Solidary Mobile Housing is about them, they will eventually live there.

At our first meeting, I introduced myself and my work with a photo presentation. I also asked the future inhabitants how they saw their interaction with the neighbourhood. Future resident Jeremy then made a very important remark: he asked to give the residents time to make the new place their home first. I decided to take care not to overwhelm them with too many questions.

During this introduction, the name of Radio SOLID came into being: the residents came up with a name for their community, and that became SOLID. Hence, Radio SOLID.

Step 2: Indiana Jones in the neighbourhood

When it became clear that the SMW project would be in the Esseghem neighborhood in Jette, I immediately decided to go exploring. I dressed up in a beige camouflage outfit and went as an explorer (Indiana Jones?) into the neighbourhood to observe.

I saw a lot of movement: people going from home to work or to the shops, people returning home. The public areas are not used intensively, only by children and adolescents using the playground. Occasionally a supervising parent follows in their wake.

In the conversations I had with neighbours at this stage, I noticed that the story of SMH did not yet resonate because there was nothing to see on the terrain. There was nothing to refer to yet. The story was a story of the future. The attitude of the neighbours towards SMH was one of positive “doubt”. Everyone was open, but... surprised.

Step 3: Meeting points

As an outsider, it is difficult to integrate the social fabric of a neighbourhood. Something like that takes time - years often! You can speed up the process by connecting to meeting places in the neighbourhood. Places where people come together. This research can be done both online and offline.
Facebook is a handy tool for neighbourhood research about neighbourhood related issues. On searching Esseghem, I quickly found out about various organizations and groups, which I started to follow so that I was always aware of activities in the neighbourhood. Facebook is also a handy communication tool to spread our podcasts and activities to the supporters of these neighbourhood organizations.
Online, however, is not enough. If you want to really be part of a neighbourhood, you also must be physically present. This was a big challenge for me, since I live in Rotterdam, far away from Jette. That's why I hired actress Sarah Bourgeois: she was born and raised in Jette and lives there. She assisted me in contacting neighbourhood organizations.
I would have preferred to set up my own tent on the grounds of the project, living in the neighbourhood for a few months on end. Unfortunately, that was not an option for this project.

Step 4: The Inter-fence

The placement of the 'informative fence' at the edge of the site was very important for my work. I worked on the design of the fence myself except for some brainstorming help, but since the installation of the fence I could finally refer to something concrete in my conversations with locals. From then on, Solidary Mobile Housing was continuously present on the terrain thanks to the fence.

The fence also helps to start new conversations: when you are on the site, you notice that passersby stay in front of the fence which is very handy to start a conversation. I think this personal communication is very important. If you talk about the project, it will come across much better than in a brochure. There is room for questions. And you can actively involve the neighbors in the project.

After such a conversation, you hope that this local will pass on the content of the conversation to the other residents.

Step 5: Using events in the neighbourhood

Sarah and I met the organization of the Neighbourhood Contract 'Magritte'. They planned a neighbourhood party in October. It was good to be there on behalf of Solidary Mobile Housing to meet the locals. Sarah and I were there as Radio SOLID: we interviewed people and I converted myself into a mobile radio station to which people could request a song in exchange for a story about the neighbourhood.
"The neighbourhood party" podcast was the first podcast we put online as Radio SOLID. The link was shared via the Facebook groups of various organizations that took part in the neighbourhood festival. In this way, we hoped to reach the same people we spoke to during the party and for them to become really part of the Solidary Mobile Housing project.

Step 6: Podcast #2 - Under construction

In Podcast #1 we presented the Solidary Mobile Housing project and let locals talk about what they thought and felt about the project. Even the mayor of Jette contributed. In Podcast #2 we talked about the state of affairs. There wasn't much to see on the site yet, but a lot was happening behind the scenes. In this case, the main purpose of the podcast was to inform people of the progress of the project.

Step 7: Festiver

In December 2019 we organized the Festiver get together: a festive event on the site with free soup, made by the future inhabitants, we had a Christmas Choir 'Les Choux de Bruxelles' and an update on the project for the Esseghem neighbourhood. Radio SOLID of course, was also present.
During Festiver, you could listen to the first two podcasts via headphones and there was an introductory game where locals and future inhabitants of SMH could ask each other surprising 'get to know each other' questions like: What is your best New Year's Eve memory? When was the last time you danced? What did you want to be when you were little?
As a theatre maker, I love the performing side of it. The play is easy and fun. It doesn't feel like an obligation to participate. And the play provided new material for our third podcast.
Festiver was a moment to show to the neighbourhood: "hey we're here, we come with good intentions, this is what our project is about. "
Despite a lot of distributed flyers and plenty of sharing via Facebook, the turnout was moderate.

Step 8: Into the neighbourhood

But before the future inhabitants move into their homes, there's something else I want to try with them. I want to go into the neighbourhood together and do something very tangible on a regular basis to show the neighbours that we mean well.
Hopefully, that will enable us to get fully integrated into the neighbourhood and hold a special place in their hearts.

The podcasts can be listened to via our website: www.solidarymobilehousing.be

4.3 REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPACT

Riet Steel, Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak

"If you want truly to understand something, try to change it" Kurt Lewin

ON HOUSING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

On the one hand, Solidary Mobile Housing is about empowering end-users to make and remake their own homes by means of a flexible, modular, qualitative and affordable design solution. On the other hand, housing is not the sole purpose of the project. SMH also wants to be a pilot project that sets social change in motion, in the housing policy, in housing models and in the way in which a city and a solidary neighbourhood and community are created and give meaning for their inhabitants.

IMPACT AND THE DNA OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Solidary Mobile Housing is a powerful community development project made of a group of socially vulnerable people wanting to improve their situation and become more resilient. It is a partnership which is more than the sum of its partners, through co-creation. As such, Solidary Mobile Housing has all the ingredients of a temporary, project-based approach, but with a clear ambition and a new socio-spatial perspective that go beyond the duration of the project itself. In short, a unique but also a typical community development project. The ambition to generate social change and social impact is, therefore, in the DNA of community development. However, community development workers indicate that identifying the social added value and the impact of practices and projects is a major challenge, due to the nature and complexity of the type of work, and because of the fact that social impact is not easy to measure.

Similarly, architects and planners should be aware that they can affect the character of social activities, as these depend on the context in which they occur (Gehl, 2011). Spatial professionals/ designers are challenged to 'support communities in their quest to create places that are comfortable - places where community members can have a sense of real ownership and the ability to adapt public streets and places to their unique aspirations and identity' (Kent, 2012). However, assessing the correlation between spatial configurations and the use and appropriation of these spaces by people turns out not to be so self-evident (De Haan, 2005; Ostermann, 2009; Low, 2014).

Nevertheless, it is crucial to pay attention to direct and indirect consequences and influences of any practice in a complex reality on which community development and spatial design try to have an impact. Today, impact is a buzzword which is increasingly used in many areas. Whereas it etymologically means a literal 'impact' or physical collision, the term is now used to describe complexity, exchange and interaction (Berger, L., 2016). We are using this working definition: 'Impact is the positive and negative, intended and unintended, direct and indirect effects occurring in the long term and as a result of an action, practice or social intervention.' (Berghmans et al., 2014). It is precisely this long term in combination with the complex realities that make impact difficult to assess. Still, it makes sense to clearly figure out your change strategy and try to get a grip on whether you can influence reality - albeit with small steps - in the desired direction.

SUPPORTING IMPACT EVALUATION

With impact evaluation, one unravels how an action, practice or social intervention works. To support the SMH, as well as other similar projects, SAM vzw (steunpunt Mens en Samenleving, a support centre for social professionals, their organisations and policy makers) chose to develop a trajectory on impact evaluation in collaboration with the sector community development. A broad interpretation was given to this term from the start. Evaluation is more than measuring what is quantifiable. It also includes understanding, learning and adjusting in function of the realization of the objectives and the mission. We consciously opt for an approach of impact evaluation that is in line with mission-driven learning and improvement loops in function of strong practice and in which both process and product, qualitative and quantitative results are taken into account. Our commitment to impact evaluation is one of strengthening the own mission and tasks of practices and organisations, and thus strengthening professionalism.

If we look at community development practices as a form of participatory action research, we also acknowledge that one of the roles of a community development worker is also the role of (action-oriented) researcher. After all, participatory action research is not only about developing knowledge to understand reality but also about knowledge to change reality. Participatory action research also leads to change and empowerment of the participants (Migchelbrink, 2016). If we want to support community workers and their teams and organisations in this role, this implies not only a complementary view on community development but also a need to hone certain skills and knowledge in order to take up this role. That is why SAM vzw is committed to creating a learning environment and the appropriate support to strengthen workers and their coaches in their craftsmanship as action-oriented researchers and reflexive practitioners.

The community development workers of Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel involved in SMH signed up for the impact evaluation project developed by SAM vzw (see box). Together with other community workers, active in housing projects in Ghent and Antwerp, they reflected on why an impact evaluation would be useful, what the best focus would be and how best to deal with it. Collective exchange and learning moments alternated with a tailor-made guidance throughout the project.

A Theory of Change was drawn up with the SMH partners. By engaging in a collective thinking exercise, we looked at how interventions lead to change and meet the objectives. This theory of change formed an important basis for considering which elements would become the subject of action research and evaluation.

On the one hand, as the action research unfolded, the KU Leuven researchers, together with the other partners, critically analysed and reflected on the ongoing processes and results of the pilot project, using a variety of methods such as 'timeline analysis' (Hall et al., 2017), 'collective self-evaluation' (Chevalier & Buckles, 2013) and 'spatial network mapping' (Romero & Pak, 2020). After the completion of the construction of the Prototype, a technical and analytical evaluation of how the inhabitants and the neighbourhood identify themselves with the spatial component of the project will be done through surveys and 'socio-spatial appropriation drawings'.

On the other hand, the community development workers decided to focus on investigating the agogic strengthening process of the participants/ inhabitants involved. The research question they formulated for this was: "Does a co-creative project process of joint design & construction, tailor-made training/work, social (collective & individual) guidance and community building lead to a strengthening of the target group in the following sense:a) the empowerment of the individual is increased and b) the situation of the individual in a number of concrete areas of life is improved?". After careful consideration, an action plan was drawn up, methodological choices were made, and suitable instruments were designed.

In the end, the community development workers started working with four different instruments. Possible changes in the self-management capacity of the eight participants were mapped via three methodologies: empowerment questionnaires, observation and focus groups. Possible changes in areas of life such as housing, financial situation, health, activation and social networking are measured using a checklist based on existing criteria such as the Brussels Housing Code. Between October and December 2018, a first empowerment survey (so-called baseline measurement, based on the empowerment meter (Depauw & Driessens, 2016)) was conducted among all participants in the project. In April 2019, this was also carried out with a new participant who started in the project in January 2019.

Since the end of 2019, RéseauMAG have been supporting the fine-tuning of instruments and the organisation and analysis of the planned focus groups. RéseauMAG optimises the developed tools on the basis of their expertise and also prepares them for use in future projects. In addition, they organise training sessions for the community workers/social workers involved to carry out the social impact research.

The empowerment survey will be organized four times, at regular intervals during the project. Observation during key moments started in the spring of 2019 and will continue until at least the end of 2020. In addition, permanent general observation will also be carried out by the group facilitator. Finally, a focus group will be organised twice, accompanied by an external researcher. The checklists on life domains will be filled in by the individual social worker (CAW) on a recurrent basis during individual interviews.

In summary, major steps have already been taken to map out the social and spatial impact of Solidary Mobile Housing. A lot of energy and time has been invested in this process. The approach in Solidary Mobile Housing is slow but sound, and it will take a lot of teamwork in the coming period to keep on documenting and analysing the results. At the end of 2021, the results of the impact assessment will be presented as a scientific and accessible output. The process itself raised many crucial questions and led to a lot of critical reflection and strategic thinking. Systematic reflection, evaluation and adjustment are therefore necessary to make an impact evaluation a meaningful exercise.

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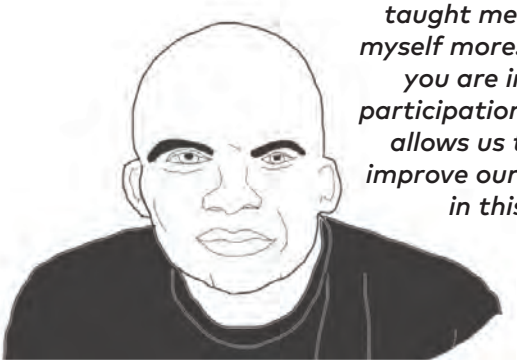
Jeremy: *"For me, in the beginning the project meant a way to get out of a difficult situation. It gave me the opportunity for a new start."*



Didier: *"I feel much better. This project has taught me to get out there, to appreciate myself more. You also feel important because you are involved in everything. It is the participation that you have given us and that allows us to be more independent and to improve our situation. We are really involved in this project; it is our project!"*

Geraldine: *"For a long time I worked for Samenlevingsopbouw on another theme. With this project I had the opportunity to make a new focus. I find it very interesting to work on a project with so much impact on poverty, but also to be able to build something myself, to build the project together... "*

Rosie: *"In this project there are a lot of conversations between all the layers in the project, it's not at all top down. I see also the fact that everyone needs to be open to change, to keep an open mind. All the people involved need to have a certain level of care to stay involved. And you get to know the people involved on a more personal level."*

Benoit: *"In the beginning I joined the project to find an occupation. It allowed me to reintegrate into society, to be socially active again. In the meantime, things have evolved. I'm working and I now have an apartment in a temporary occupation. We are now more on our own, this is a more normal life. We can organise things more the way we want. We now have more time for ourselves and much more privacy than in a shelter home. What is very important to me is that I can now also receive visitors. I have contacted my brother and he comes by once in a while. In the old days we always had to meet up at his place."*

Benoit: *"Above all, I now expect things to move forward. I've been noticing for a while that things are not really progressing with the houses, there's always something causing a delay. Still, I stay motivated. I found a job after my carpentry training and that's a job that demands a lot from me. That means that I can't always be present at Solid's activities. I think that's a pity. I always try to be present and do my bit at the activities that are organized in the evenings and weekends."*

4.4 REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE

Stijn Beeckman, Geraldine Bruyneel, Aurelie De Smet, Burak Pak

Throughout this book, we have presented the SMH/M and explained how this has been co-created and tested during the SMH project. In this section, we are briefly reflecting on the possible role and position of the SMH Co-creation Method and SMH Architectural Design Prototype that make up this Model.

First of all, the methods and tools developed in the framework of the SMH Co-creation Method can be broadly applied, e.g. by:

- local and regional administrations, for the identification of suitable locations for realizing other types of affordable housing projects
- spatial professionals, for involving end-users in the planning, design and realization of their own projects
- specific NGO's, for empowering people in need through co-creation, skill-building and individual and group guidance
- local entrepreneurs, for starting up/engaging in self-construction processes
- all kinds of individuals or groups of end-users, for the solidary appropriation of Waiting Spaces
- all kinds of temporary use actors, for realizing neighbourhood integration of their own projects
- actors from different fields (industry/university/civil society/citizens), for getting engaged in co-creative urban planning and design processes
- (spatial) professionals, NGO's or end users, for creating novel (solidary) architectural projects through adaptation of the developed architectural design prototype

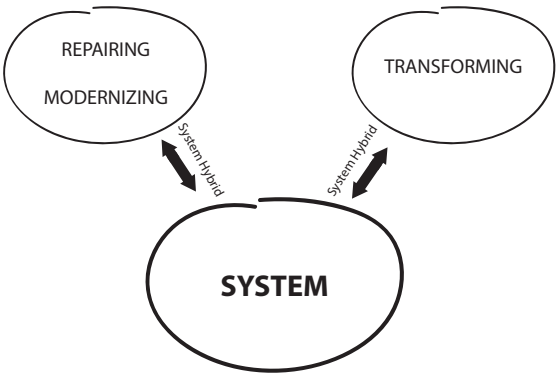
Secondly, we see a strong link between the aims of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (PRDD/GPDO) and those of our SMH/M. According to this plan, the 'right to the city' must be the basis for the reading of any territorial approach and territorial policy must thus be strongly infused with solidarity. This is clearly also the aim of the SMH/M.

As the SMH/M aims at reactivating un(der)used urban sites (for housing), it completely fits in the Regional ambition to support temporary participatory projects. As both the SMH Co-creation Method and the SMH Prototype aim at (methodically and spatially) creating and strengthening networked practices and small-scale solidarity networks, they can indeed help to mobilize the BCR's civil society and citizens to actively reflect on the development of their urban environment and to formulate answers to the challenges of tomorrow together. As such, the SMH/M offers opportunities to support the Region's ambition to 'make work of the city together'.

Also, by offering a method for the solidary appropriation of the 'Intermittent City', the SMH/M can contribute to the Regional ambition of realizing a 'polycentric city on different scales'. The Model's first aim is, of course, to provide more spaces for people in precarious housing conditions, a group that is usually excluded and left out everywhere else. However, by the opening up the collective space to the neighbourhood and by providing a semi-public landscape on the terrain, it also aims at fostering neighbourhood integration and creating meaningful (temporary) local poles, which we believe, can subsequently be integrated in the neighbourhood on the long term.

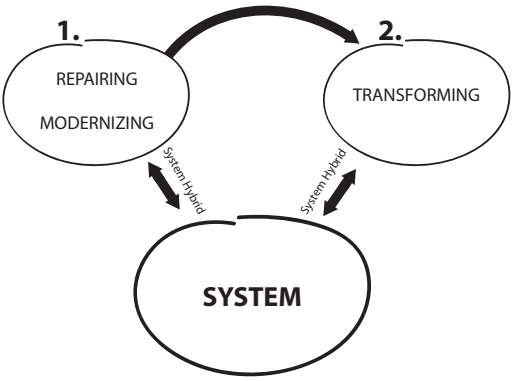
As such, by contributing to the realization of the 'urban project', as formulated in the PRDD/GPDO, the SMH/M could help to increase the socio-spatial urban resilience of the BCR. As a result, we believe that, in the context of the affordable housing crisis the BCR is currently facing, the SMH/M can on the short-term help to both repair and modernize the BCR's housing system.

By providing a method and prototype for the rapid construction of additional (temporary) housing on un(der)used urban spaces, the SMH/M can help to tackle the huge lack in qualitative, affordable housing the Region is facing; while at the same time broadening the range of affordable housing typologies. And by providing



new methods and tools for co-creation and for the guidance and inclusion of vulnerable people, the SMH/M offers ways to allow a variety of actors (from civil society, academy, business and the government) to participate in this, and to include the end-users in the planning, design, realization and management of their own housing.

Moreover, as the SMH/M has the potential to intervene within the three components of the housing system, as identified by Romainville (2015), we also believe that on the longer-term, it holds the potential to structurally transform the BCR's housing production system.

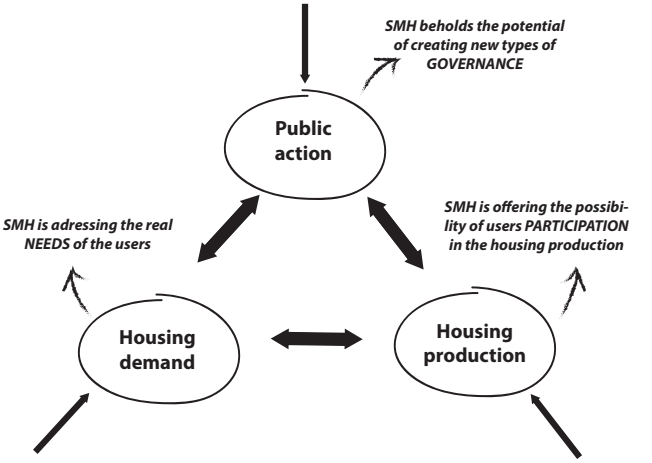


On the level of the housing demand, the SMH/M is using 'infrastructuring in and through design' as a means for activating the self-organizational agency of the BCR's un(der)used urban spaces for housing. The aim behind this is to create an open system, allowing the users to choose their housing solution more freely, based on their own needs at each specific point in time.

On the level of the housing production, the SMH/M is rethinking architecture as an ever-changing, incomplete and open infrastructure and opening up the production processes to a variety of alternative actors. As a result, architecture is transformed into a means for participation, empowering individuals and communities to make and remake their own living environments.

Finally, on the level of the public action, the SMH/M aims at involving the government, academia, business and civil society in a transdisciplinary and trans sectoral networked practice. As a result, the Model holds the potential to contribute to institutional changes in governance arrangements and integrate the appropriation of the Intermittent City for housing in a Tactical Urban Planning approach (see section 2.3).

However, we are not there yet. At this point, the on-site demonstration has not been fully made and the feasibility and viability of the SMH/M for larger-scale implementation is to be investigated further. There is a need for a deeper understanding


SMH beholds the potential of creating new types of GOVERNANCE
Public action
SMH is adressing the real NEEDS of the users
SMH is offering the possibility of users PARTICIPATION in the housing production
Housing demand
Housing production

and evaluation of the strategies, conditions and key success factors for scaling-up, with respect to the following aspect:

- the technical performance such as the building technology of the housing units and collective space(s) in the light of the current housing standards and expected new use and functionality
- the economic viability of this housing model, under the consideration of the boundary conditions (current resources and know-how) and the effort, expected benefits and possible alternative financing strategies (not based on funding).
- the (adjusted) legal frameworks this type of housing fits in on the long-term and the possible consequences this could have on the current building and urbanism instruments and directives
- the means of organization for this form of temporary use (e.g. processes, timelines and partners for production, for site discovery, selection and negotiation and for relocation)
- the socio-spatial impact and expected benefit (social, economic & environmental) of this form of living for the users, the surrounding neighbourhood and the city as a whole

Before the SMH Social Business can be developed, a Proof of Concept-phase thus needs to and will take place. During this phase the developed product will be tested and monitored on-site, all the different aspects impacting the proposed SMH Model (listed above) will be studied and exchanges with key experts and actors on all of these aspects will be organized, in order to prove the socio-economic interest. The on-site testing will happen through the SOLID pilot project with the eight inhabitants, on a site in Jette. In this way, the SMH project will keep on delivering insights, also after its appropriation by the inhabitants and the neighbourhood. On the mid-term, we also aspire to test the SMH/M on other terrains, in other municipalities and with other group compositions.

In this context, SOB is making some critical reflections. Scaling up the existing model, implies that SOB, who is also the owner of the dwellings, needs to develop new capacities such as management, production, project development, business modelling, ... Within the current not-for-profit structure of SOB, this cannot be developed sufficiently. A new structure should make it possible to adequately address the needs and opportunities of the model and will allow us to manage the existing units, further develop the possibilities of the housing model, look for new social and economic models in function of our objective: more affordable and qualitative housing with adequate social guidance. Such a governance structure needs to foresee a variety of functions such as management, which addresses everything that has to do with maintenance, storage, production, assembly and installation of SMH units. For this, some questions will need to be addressed.

- Can these tasks be outsourced to already existing socio-economical companies, or can this be embedded in the new structure?
- What are the possible employment opportunities?
- How do we create a fund to finance maintenance, repair and installation costs?
- How do we deal with errors, bad use and rental guarantee?
- Who are the most important partners to realize this with?
- And what about the issue of project development which includes everything that has to do with sites, over a permit to project: prospecting sites, negotiations with owners, project study (implantation and financial feasibility) .... How do we handle the technical and urban follow-up, and how do we anchor it within the new structure?

We need to look at the right business model to scale up the existing housing model. Do we capitalize on possible commercial opportunities in such a way that this contributes to our mission? What financial model makes it possible to connect the existing partnerships, our community and economic activities? How do we look for additional funding to finance our social counselling?

On the question of governance, a new structure can also include current partners in a more structural way. Can current partners play a role in the future structure, e.g. can the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture play a role in everything that has to do with knowledge creation and -sharing? Can CasaBlanco, Atelier Groot Eiland play a role in future skill-building and production?

Robert: *"What I find very special is to be part of a pilot project. That really should be rolled out further, first in Belgium, but I also see a lot of opportunities, for example in Africa. It could be good housing for people who currently have too few resources, and there are many in the world. For me personally, the project is very "encouraging". I've been waiting a long time for a social apartment but that doesn't seem to be happening. This project also takes a lot of time, but it feels like time well spent. Once we are launched, we really need to study how we can expand it. This gives me hope and it could change a lot for a lot of people in the future."*

4.5 A LETTER FROM THE FUTURE

Tineke Van Heesvelde

It’s May 10, 2030, and it’s a sunny day.

The site and the workshop of the cooperative Solidary Mobile housing are busy. Today, the third project of this company is being finalised: a modular and mobile residential community for five women, with or without children, on a wasteland in Sint-Agatha Berchem. These women are still living in two shelters in Brussels, but they have been actively involved in the development of the project for some time and will be able to move in from 1 July. Everything has already been arranged to ensure that these women will be able to move swiftly. As to the place of residence, the municipality has automatically allocated five separate addresses, because the solidarity-based project has been labelled as a multi-family living form. The agreements have been made with the CPAS so that there is no interruption in the family income. For those families who were entitled to it, a housing allowance has already been granted. A convention has been concluded with the owner of the land to allow families to stay for at least three years and to be notified six months before moving. In addition, the region has completed a reserve list of all sites eligible for the measure and which are granted a tax exemption.

Because modular and mobile projects are given recognition in Brussels, they are subject to different, flexible regulation. This results in a very large and welcome reduction of the administrative burden to the benefit of all. There is, of course, a framework that must be respected and that focuses on the well-being, safety and health of the new inhabitants, as well as the obligation to respect their neighbouring environment.

“What a difference compared to 10 years ago!” testify “the eight of SOLID”, the inhabitants who helped set up the first project. They have already moved twice and have helped to improve the situation, sometimes by trial and error. They proudly tell how things were ten years ago.

“The trouble it took then to get a site! However, there were plenty of terrains available. In those days it was normal for property rights to weigh more heavily than the right to housing, even if property rights were misused to speculate. Fortunately, the balance - also due to the corona crisis in that period - turned in favour of the right to decent housing. It is not that our model has now solved the housing crisis, but things have changed for the many other initiatives that stood up for the right to housing. You have to know that during this period, homelessness was on the rise and many people in Brussels had to live in precarious conditions: too expensive, too small, unhealthy... People realised that this was no longer possible!”

“We’ve come out of this whole story stronger ourselves. Pioneering is tiring but also fascinating. Now we have the feeling that we have not only put our own lives back on track but that we have also contributed to a more equitable society”.

“From the initial period of development of the first project, the partner organizations and we have learned a lot. We then made checklists for different people involved/responsible, to make sure that future projects would not have to go through the same long and hard battle again. We are convinced that we wouldn’t be where we are today on the 10th of May 2030 if we hadn’t set the whole mill in motion then”.

“By the way, if you’re curious about our checklists, they’re available on our website. Although we have and had big expectations from politicians and the administration for housing policy adjustments, we also have checklists for academia, public project developers, civil society organisations and even for future inhabitants. After all, developing these projects requires a mind shift from all those involved, not least ourselves: housing is a verb, and everyone gets their place and has their part to play in making this possible”.

5.1 AFTERWORD

Interview with the research funding agencies: INNOVIRIS and Cabinet Fremault

Interview with Xavier Van Hulhoven & Suzanna Koelet, INNOVIRIS

What is INNOVIRIS 'vision on our project, in the light of the - in our opinion quite unique - Co-create program?

Xavier: The Co-create program first requires an anchoring in the BXL reality, in order to better grasp the complexity of the societal systems the projects are aiming to address and to enable a systemic approach. The SMH project has really made this anchoring, with all its advantages and disadvantages. In the process of the realization of the units on the terrain, you were confronted with various challenges (social, technical, legal, economic), but that is part of this complexity and challenges you to be creative. In this way, the project has contributed a lot, because you have worked on the various issues surrounding the problem.

A second important dimension of the Co-create program is the involvement of the actors who are directly impacted and who will play a direct role in the innovation. As these are the ones who will have to adjust their current practices. This is to avoid having to start convincing people of the solution after the research process. Here too I think that this work was actually done in your project: by working with the main actors: of course, these are the homeless themselves, but also, e.g. the owners of un(der)used sites, the neighbourhood (starting now), ... The fruits of this are already visible in your project.

In my opinion, one of the results of your project is that you have demonstrated that the co-creation process is just as important as the technical result (the housing units). This is important because this program is often seen as a social program, mainly focused on social issues, while it is about so much more. Therefore, it is important to realize that the two: the social and the technical cannot be detached. This is why it is interesting that, in addition to a Prototype, your project also works on the elaboration of the corresponding Model. For me, this shows that you have been able to create a real "socio-technical solution".

Suzanna: The SMH project is also a very good and easy example to illustrate the "co-create approach" to people. You have succeeded very well in bringing various parties together to work on an alternative housing model. I think that the trajectory that was taken to involve the future inhabitants in the project and to give them a role as co-researchers has really been particularly successful. It was nice to see the engagement that lies behind this and also the necessary modesty and the step back that you all took to let others speak, and also the curiosity that was there to listen to what others have to say.

For us, it was very important to be able to unite people around something tangible and concrete that we can actually build and for which we have received the means from INNOVRIS. How do you feel about the fact that research money is being spent on building houses? Is that something unique, or is it something that also occurs in other projects?

Xavier: It is indeed quite unique that eight houses are being built, but it also depends on how you look at this. We must ask ourselves how the people involved see these houses: are they seen as a solution that you are offering them or are they really an experimental object for them. That is not obvious, because they naturally want to be able to live there at the end of the journey, whereas the outcome of a research project may as well be that you must conclude that one cannot live in this way or that it is not even possible to realize this as it was envisaged. These are questions that certainly need to be addressed further in the coming period… but it has already become clear that the constructions are experimental instruments. They are the instruments in the research around which the partners are experimenting. When other researchers apply for funding for typical research equipment (such as analysis instruments for biological or chemical research), this is often much more expensive, and often no questions are asked about it, but this is the same! This is something specific for the Co-create program and it is not always easy to explain. Certainly not to people who are facing the crisis the project aims to address. It is not evident to talk to them about the "creative challenge" and "experimentation". But in your project, you have succeeded well.

How do you look back on the role of INNOVIRIS in this project?

Xavier: We want to be a real partner in the projects and change the image of the administration a bit. From this point of view, the follow-up is, e.g. done every six months and it is conceived more like a "guidance", to support the projects.

We have indeed also experienced it that way!

Solidary Mobile Housing is one of the five projects awarded funding in the framework of the Call for Modular Housing in the Brussels Capital Region. Within the framework of this call, projects should aim at developing housing for socially vulnerable persons and more specifically, homeless people. We interviewed Fotios Topalidis (FT) who, at the time, was a member of the cabinet of the Minister in charge of Housing and was himself in charge of the Modular Housing Call. Currently, he works as a member of staff at the Service Public Regional Logement Bruxelles. His colleagues Rebecca Boch (RB), also a member of staff and Quentin Mages (QM), in charge of calls for innovative tenders, joined the interview.

Which lessons can be learnt from an innovative project like SMH?

FT: As a cabinet member, I at first wondered, and so did the Minister, whether this kind of projects wouldn't have a stigmatizing effect. However, as the main mission of Bruxelles Logement is to provide everyone with a decent home, we realised that these projects could definitely help to achieve this goal. Today we are seeing that SMH is really aiming at providing decent housing, which is positive, even if in this case, we are not talking about standard dwellings.

QM: Perhaps we should point out that we have not yet entered the evaluation phase of the call for projects. From what I hear of your project, it seems to be going rather well and according to the planned timings. This may not necessarily be the case for all selected projects. We always know that there are hazards, there are unforeseen events, so for us, it is too early to start a real evaluation phase. Even if we already know some difficulties or some lessons that can be learned for the future. A good part of the difficulties that can be encountered in these projects are, unfortunately, difficulties over which we have little leverage, or the tools are either not in our hands. The framework evolves more slowly than solutions, but thanks to projects like these proposals emerge from the field.

How can an experimental project be adopted/implemented by the stakeholders from the traditional housing sector?

RB: Usually, public authorities prefer to keep vacant plots unused so that they would be free to use for them when they see fit. In our memorandum, we suggested encouraging public stakeholders to instead allow for vacant plots to be used for temporary housing or to host the Traveller's Community in the meanwhile. One could imagine, for example, such a systematic obligation in cases where building projects are three or four years away. We need to start thinking differently, and we need new laws to facilitate these new approaches.

RB: A certain number of public housing actors are interested in modular housing and are curious to learn more about the results of the Call. But I do not think that those stakeholders will, in the future, focus their activities on modular housing only. The current housing crisis requires all their attention already. All this needs specific expertise in housing-related matters that go well beyond socio-economic issues and demand a permanent and targeted follow up.

Do you think that our SMH project could be integrated into the housing policies?

FT: Why not? It's also a matter of solidarity and community spirit. We have seen that in Social Housing Agencies homeless people who are given a roof but live on their own find it much more difficult than when living in a collective structure. The solidarity aspect brings in added value to this type of project and from what you say, it would also have a long-lasting effect.

RB: For me, the solidarity aspect of modular housing and other innovative projects go hand in hand. It is not always easy to come up with solutions. If the foundations and support are not solid enough the whole thing will collapse after a few years.

RB: The solidarity aspect of this form of housing is indeed interesting. If housing is considered to be first and foremost a way for homeless people to be returned to a more sustainable type of housing, the solidarity aspect will kick in later. What is crucial, however, is to have the support of professionals and various types of experts in order to deal with administrative or legal issues. Or indeed, medical issues such as addictions or psychological issues. Once people are reintegrated, whether completely or not, solidarity will act as a safety net and will enhance the social fabric. It will allow for a strict framework to gradually develop into something more flexible. Both approaches are complementary, I think.

It may be premature, but do you think that projects such as the SMH project can impact the legal framework?

QM: In some ways, it already has: when we launched the Call we talked to the public administration and the Town Planning Department about how various priorities and different objectives could be reconciled in order to comply with the framework whilst allowing for the projects to be implemented. Awareness raising and experience sharing are as such an added value in terms of administrative and legal procedures. However, personally, I think that given the elections and the subsequent new public administration, it is not really clear what the current priorities are in terms of projects such as this one.
RB : 'Recently our new Secretary of State published a press article about innovative forms of housing that I believe could contribute to some amendments in regulations.

5.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to the following people for their valuable contributions, for their patience, perseverance and belief in the SMH project.

Jeremy Claesswinnen, Omar Hamrouni, Robert Preston, Marc Staquet, Benoit Van Dooren, Amine Bellarabi, Didier Nzeza Makunsi (& Christophe Mertens, Arno Hilgers, Michel Allardot, Dennis Plovie, Yannick Moreau).

Geraldine Bruyneel, Tineke Van Heesvelde, Nico Martens, Hanna Clarys, Stijn Beeckman (employees of Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel) & Amina Lamari, Jelena Van Meerbeeck, Sarah Lestaeghe (interns of Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel)

Burak Pak, Yves Schoonjans, Aurelie De Smet, Rosie Romero, Ken de Cooman (professors, researchers and guest lecturers of the KU Leuven Faculteit Architectuur) & Julie Charlot, Hedieh Ghaem, Nangula Shilongo, Boryana Vladislavova, Artemisia Zafrakopoulou, Char Chau, Deniz Gürel, Ioanna Dimaki, Irati Alvaro Zabla, Kadir Uyar, Lo Kuang-Liang, Melissa Jin, Nerea Garcia Berriozabal, Omer Ozdikici, Oscar Farré Valenti, Patricia Marco, Stan Rezucha (students of KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture)

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Gerd Claes (w-o-l-k-e)

Brecht Hermans & Sarah Bourgeois (Radio Solid)

Ariane Mol (graphic designer)

Katleen Vanlerberghe, Riet Steel (Steunpunt SAM)

Bernard Fornoville+ (Sociale Innovatiefabriek)

Nicolas Bernard, Nicole Mondelaers, Frederic Serroen, Jana Verstraete, Yves Van de Casteele, Leen Hellinckx (SMH Advisory Board Members)

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Jan Douteur (Recyclart - FABRIK)

Zeliha Ozturk for book design and implementation, Rosaura Romero for graphics content

and all those we are forgetting…

5.3 PROJECT & PHOTO CREDITS

Aurelie De Smet

Architect - spatial planner &
researcher at the Faculty of
Architecture of the KU Leuven

As 'the project-researcher' Aurelie attended to as many of the project activities as possible. While at the same time helping to organise and participating to those, she also observed the interactions between the participants, the exchange and construction of knowledge and the coming into being of and transformation of the model and the prototype (both during formal and informal moments). Her role was to document and help to understand how the project evolved, how knowledge was created in a co-creative and transdisciplinary way and what was the role of the various actors in this and to document this. She also took the lead in reporting on this via scientific reports and publications, together with the other partners. Going along, she asked critical questions and, together with the project-promotors, she helped to theoretically substantiate the actions to be taken.

Burak Pak

Professor at the Faculty of
Architecture of the KU Leuven

Founder, Altering Practices for
Urban Inclusion Research Group

As the project co-supervisor of the SMH INNOVIRIS research project at KU Leuven, he has co-created the project idea with Geraldine Bruyneel, Tineke Van Heesvelde and Yves Schoonjans, and co-written the project proposal and designed the project methodology. He actively led KU Leuven tasks and organized and taught the design studio and elective courses through which the housing and collective spaces are co-designed. Other tasks he was involved in are: devising of a site selection method, co-production of research papers, the book and the project report as well as engagement in the knowledge production in the frame of two integrated PhD projects with Aurelie de Smet and Rosie Romero.

Brecht Hermans

Theatre maker

As an autonomous theatre maker Brecht likes to work around encounters. Participants get to know each other better by sharing stories about music through his mobile radio. Brecht was born in Hasselt, living in Rotterdam. He has a Master in Theatre Studies at the University of Ghent and a Bachelor Stage Techniques at RITCS in Brussels. Besides his studies he first performed at the collectives: Cie Hatsjie/De Stokerij in Hasselt, De Constanten in Brussels and Oortocht in Ghent.

Geraldine Bruyneel

Project leader for Solidary
Mobile Housing, vzw
Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel

As the project leader for Solidary Mobile Housing she is responsible for setting up networks of partners to work towards the realisation of the many layers of our project, and for helping to find solutions to ‘bumps in the road’.

Julie Charlot

Graduate at the Faculty of
Architecture, KU Leuven
Brussels.
Architect at R2D2 architecture

Julie was one of the students involved in the design of the SMH project during an elective class lead by Ken De Cooman, from BC architects. She continued her involvement by participating in the workshops organised by researcher, Rosie Romero, as a facilitator.

Ken De Cooman

Ken De Cooman, co-founder of
BC architects

Involved first as a KU Leuven design studio teacher, subsequently as a KU Leuven researcher for Solidary Mobile Housing project. In a co-creation process with all project partners, the design for Solidary Mobile Housing was prepared by Ken De Cooman. BC architects was subsequently tasked with maturing the KULeuven design concept towards a buildable design, specifying tendering documents, assisting in design and build workshops and supervising construction.

Petrus Pincé

Psycho-social worker for CAW-
Brussel

Petrus ensures the psycho-social assistance to the inhabitants of SMH according to the principles of integrated, customized housing support. Based on his experience as project and process counsellor for workshops and group counselling, he is also well placed to assess the mutual impact of group dynamics on the individual and respond to this.

Rosaura Romero

Phd Candidate at the Architecture Faculty
of KU Leuven, Brussels.

As a research assistant at Solidary Mobile Housing, Rosie's role took many forms; from a community builder through her workshop facilitation, and site actions, to being a graphic designer and sometimes a network connector. Through her Phd research she aimed to understand, map and analyse relationships within the SMH networks, focusing in the various links between actors, spaces, concepts, processes, and instruments (Latour, 2005). Then, through workshops and interventions, she experimented on ways to improve the relations between the 8 residents, as well as the relations between the residents and neighbourhood.

Tineke Van Heesvelde

Community development worker, Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel vzw, Solidary Mobile Housing

Tineke was involved in the general development of the project and more specifically responsible for group facilitation and support, empowerment measurement and skill building. She was the initiator of the project, which arose after many attempts to address, together with people in precarious housing situations, the great lack of affordable and decent housing in Brussels. In doing so, they found that there was a lack of political will to tackle this problem in depth. By creating its own houses, SMH shows that (many) solutions are possible.

Yves Schoonjans

Full professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven

Founder of the 'urban projects, Collective Spaces and Local Identities' research group.

Head of the Research Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

As one of the two project supervisors (Yves Schoonjans & Burak Pak) of the SMH INNOVIRIS research project at the KU Leuven, he has co-created the project idea with Burak Pak, Geraldine Bruyneel and Tineke Van Heesvelde. We found it important to co-design and co-write the project in its different aspects creating a maximum of interaction. He participated with Burak Pak and Aurelie de Smet in some of the student-courses that were linked to the project, in the scientific production and general management of the project.

Bob Van Hoecke

Cluster coordinator residential care within CAW Brussel

Bob supports the psycho-social worker within the project, both in terms of content and administration. He is also involved in the project as a co-creative core partner. He is a member of the partner meeting where progress in all areas of the project is monitored.

Bregt Hoppenbrouwers

Architect and collaborator at BC architects

Bregt works together with Ken De Cooman on maturing the KU Leuven design concept towards a buildable design, specifying tendering documents, assisting in design and build workshops and supervising construction.

Nicolas Bernard

Professeur à l'Université Saint-Louis — Bruxelles

Member of the advisory group for Solidary Mobile Housing and researcher on the legal aspects of mobile housing

Nicole Mondelaers

Responsible for the organisation of the Brussels city count in 2016 and 2017, member of the research group for the project Mehobel, 'Measuring homelessness in Belgium' (Belspo 2016-2018), member of the EU-Cost network 'Measuring homelessness in Europe' (2016-2020)

Member of the advisory group for Solidary Mobiel Housing

Pascal De Decker

Professor in Sociology at the Faculty of Architecture of the KU Leuven.

Member of the advisory group for Solidary Mobiel Housing

Pieter Dehon

contracter and director of a social construction entrepreprise

Riet Steel

Riet Steel works as a staff member for SAM, steunpunt Mens en Samenleving, a support centre for social professionals, their organisations and policy makers.

She supported the initiators of Solidary Mobile Housing in designing a Theory of Change and in reflection on and planning of the evaluation of social impact of the project.

Stijn Beeckman

Teamcoordinator housing Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel vzw

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researcher at l'Université Saint-Louis — Bruxelles

Luc Lampaert

medewerker alternatieve woonvormen Kenniscentrum WWZ

Werner Van Mieghem

coordinator of the Brussels Association for the Right to Housing
(Brusselse Bond voor het Recht op Wonen/Rassemblement Bruxellois pour le droit à l'habitat)

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5.4 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ARA vzw: NPO that brings people in poverty and more specifically homeless people together to stand up for their right to a decent home (Armen Reageren tegen Armoede)
BBRoW/RBDH: NPO made up of some 50 associations, each of which is working on its own territory to realise the right to housing and to promote decent and affordable housing in the BCR (Brusselse Bond voor het Recht op Wonen/Rassemblement Bruxellois pour le Droit à l'Habitat)
BCR: Brussels Capital Region
BGHM/SLRB: The Brussels regional institute in charge of social housing (Brusselse Gewestelijke Huisvestingsmaatschappij/ Société du Logement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale)
CAW: Centre for general welfare, an NPO that helps people with all their questions and problems related to well-being (Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk vzw)
CoBAT/BWRO: Brussels spatial planning code (Code Bruxellois de l'Aménagement du Territoire, Brussels Wetboek van Ruimtelijke Ordening)
GIS: Geographic Information Systems
NPO: Non-Profit making Organization (vzw, vereniging zonder winstoogmerk; asbl, association sans but lucratif)
OCMW/CPAS: Public social welfare centre (Openbaar Centrum voor Maatschappelijk Welzijn/ Centre Public d'Action Sociale)
PPAS/BBP: Specific land use plan (Plan Particulier d'Affectation du Sol/ Bijzonder Bestemmingsplan)
PRAS/GBP: Regional land use plan (Plan Régional d'Affectation du Sol/ Gewestelijk Bestemmingsplan)
PRDD/GPDO: Regional plan for sustainable development (Plan Régional de Développement Durable/ Gewestelijk Plan voor duurzame Ontwikkeling)
RRU/GSV: Regional town planning regulation (Règlement Régional d'Urbanisme/Gewestelijke Stedenbouwkundige Verordening)
SAM vzw: NPO that supports social professionals working with socially vulnerable people (Steunpunt Mens en Samenleving)
SMH: Solidary Mobile Housing
SMH DS: Solidary Mobile Housing Design Studio
SMH/M: Solidary Mobile Housing Model
SOB: NPO realising community development projects in Brussels (Samenlevingsopbouw Brussel vzw)
TU: Temporary Use

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